



School Meal Application Drive Toolkit

School Meals are free for all public school students in the 2022-23 school year. Federal program waivers that have allowed schools to serve all meals free to students during the pandemic have ended, but our state legislature stepped up and passed Act 151 to continue Universal School Meals in Vermont this year!

Even though meals are free, school meal applications are critical for school funding, for student access to important education programs, and to the success of Universal School Meals this year. Turning in school meal applications will go a long way in helping us make this program permanent in Vermont, due to the connection between the school meal applications and school nutrition program funding. Basically, the more school meal applications that are turned in by families, the more funding schools receive from the federal government, and less money the state has to provide.

As a public figure in your community, we need YOUR help to spread the word that filling out school meal applications is essential this fall. Please share the messages below and help us spread the word!

Social Media

[Social media graphics for Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and Stories can all be found in this folder.](#)

Sample Captions:

- Submit your School Meal Application today! Filling out and returning the application may help your family, school, and community, qualify for other financial assistance.
- Please complete your school meal application today! While meals are free for students this year, your school still needs you to complete a school meal application. When you return your school meal application, you are helping your student, your school, and our entire community. When more students turn in school meal applications, that means more money for education in the cafeteria and the classroom. Contact your school to submit your meal application.
- Even though meals are free this school year, your school meal application is critical to the success of Universal School Meals this year and helps us make this program

permanent in Vermont. Submit your school meal application today; it helps you, your school, and your entire community.

Post the message below on your local front porch forum and other community forums:

Please complete your school meal application today!

While meals are free for students this year, your school still needs you to complete a school meal application. When you return your school meal application, you are helping your student, your school, and our entire community. When more students turn in school meal applications, that means more money for education in the cafeteria and the classroom.

Did you know, there are many benefits to submitting a meal application? School meal applications can help:

- Students qualify for waived testing fees, low-cost internet, and discounts to some community programs
- Your school meal program bring in more federal dollars to invest in local food and farm-to-school programming
- Your schools qualify for important federal education funding
- Your community qualify for summer and afterschool meal programs

Contact your school to submit your meal application.

Share this outreach message with your email list:

The 'Back To school' list has a new item and it's not the lunchbox!

As families across the state are prepping for school, you can cross lunchboxes off your Back to School shopping list!

As you may know, meals are free for all public school students in the 2022-23 school year. The federal program waivers that have allowed schools to serve all meals free to students during the pandemic have ended, but our state legislature stepped up and passed Act 151 to continue Universal School Meals in Vermont this year!

Even though meals are free, school meal applications are critical for school funding, for student access to important education programs, and for the success of Universal School Meals this year. Turning in school meal applications will go a long way in helping us make this program permanent in Vermont. The School Meal Application is replacing your child's lunchbox on your 'Back to School' list this fall!

There are many benefits to submitting a meal application:

- Students qualify for waived testing fees, low-cost internet through the new Affordable Connectivity Program, and discounts to some community programs
- Help your school meal program bring in more federal funding to invest in local food and farm-to-school programming
- Help your schools qualify for important federal education funding
- Help your community qualify for free summer and afterschool meal programs

Your school will send you a link or a paper copy of the school meal application at the beginning of the school year, if they have not done it already. It takes about 15 minutes to fill out the application. And this year, the benefits of doing so are universal! [Check here to read more information about the benefits and importance of filling out the School Meal Application!](#)