

# Madison Board of Education

1379 Grace Street • Mansfield, Ohio 44905  
Phone (419) 589-2600

## Frequently Asked Questions About Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. The Madison Local School District offers healthy meals each school day. **Breakfast costs \$1.75; lunch costs – K-8 \$3.00 and 9-12 \$3.25. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced price is \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch.** This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. **Who can receive free or reduced-price meals?**

- All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Ohio Works First (OWF);
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the federal income eligibility guidelines chart below.

Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$23,606	\$1,968	\$454
2	31,894	2,658	614
3	40,182	3,349	773
4	48,470	4,040	933
5	56,758	4,730	1,092
6	65,046	5,421	1,251
7	73,334	6,112	1,411
8	81,622	6,802	1,570
Each additional person:	8,288	691	160

2. **How do I know if my children qualify as homeless, migrant or runaway?** If members of your household lack a permanent address; are staying together in a shelter, hotel or other temporary housing arrangement; relocate on a seasonal basis or; children live with you who have chosen to leave their prior or family or household then the children may qualify as homeless, migrant or runaway. If you have not been told your children will receive free meals, please call or email **Lisa Gonzalez at 419-589-2600** or [lgonzalez@madisonrams.net](mailto:lgonzalez@madisonrams.net) to see if they qualify.
3. **Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Use one free and reduced-price school meal application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete. Please submit all required information. **Return the completed application to Kim Pfeiderer 1419 Grace Street Mansfield Ohio 44903 419-589-1116.**
4. **Should I complete an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are approved already for free meals?** No, but please read the letter carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from the eligibility notification, **contact Kim Pfeiderer 419-589-1116 immediately.**
5. **Can I apply online?** No but you can download a Free/Reduced application at [www.mlzd.net](http://www.mlzd.net).
6. **My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to complete another application?** Yes. **Your child's application is valid for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You are required to submit a new application unless the school notified you that your child is eligible for the new school year.**

# Madison Board of Education

1379 Grace Street • Mansfield, Ohio 44905  
Phone (419) 589-2600

7. **I receive WIC benefits. Can my child(ren) get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. *Please submit a completed application.*
8. **Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, we may also ask you to send written proof.
9. **If I do not qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
10. **What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to the following contact person: **Kim Pfleiderer 419-589-1116.**
11. **May I apply if someone else in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your child(ren) members do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.
12. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, submit the report with the routine amount of \$1,000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
13. **What if some household members have no income to report?** Household members may not receive some types of income that are asked for you to report on the application or may not receive income at all. When this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those also will be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank.
14. **We are in the military. Do we report our income differently?** Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it also must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
15. **What if there is not enough space on the application for my family?** List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your application. **Contact Kim Pfleiderer 419-589-1116.**
16. **Why am I being asked to give my consent for an instructional fee waiver?** Ohio public schools are required to waive the school instructional fees for children who qualify for free meal benefits. School food service personnel must have parent consent to share the student meal application if your child(ren) qualify for a fee waiver. If you agree to allow your child(ren)'s meal application to be shared with school officials to see if they qualify for a fee waiver then select **yes** in part 5. If you do not wish for that information to be shared, then select **no** in part 5. Answering no to this question will mean your child will not be considered for a fee waiver. Answering this question either way will not change your child(ren)'s free or reduced-price meal eligibility.
17. **My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for Ohio SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 877-852-0010.

If you have other questions or need help, call **Kim Pfleiderer 419-589-1116.**

Sincerely,

*Kim Pfleiderer*

# Madison Board of Education

1379 Grace Street • Mansfield, Ohio 44905  
Phone (419) 589-2600

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

*A household member is any child or adult living with you.*

### IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES BENEFITS FROM THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) OR OHIO WORKS FIRST (OWF), FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

**Part 1:** List all household members and the school name and grade level for each child.

**Part 2:** List the 7 or 10-digit case number for any household member (including adults) receiving SNAP or OWF benefits.

**Part 3:** Skip this part.

**Part 4:** Skip this part.

**Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.

**Part 6:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.

**Part 7:** We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

### IF NO ONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES SNAP OR OWF BENEFITS AND IF ANY CHILD IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS HOMELESS, MIGRANT OR RUNAWAY, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

**Part 1:** List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child.

**Part 2:** Skip this part.

**Part 3:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway, check the appropriate box and call **Lisa Gonzalez at 419-589-2600 or [lgonzalez@madisonrams.net](mailto:lgonzalez@madisonrams.net)**. If not, skip this part.

**Part 4:** Complete only if a child in your household isn't eligible under Part 3. See Instruction for all other households.

**Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.

**Part 6:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are **not** necessary if you didn't need to complete in part 4.

**Part 7:** We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

### IF YOU APPLY FOR A FOSTER CHILD, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

#### If all children in the household are foster children:

**Part 1:** List all foster children and the school name and grade level for each child. Check the box that indicates the child is a foster child.

**Part 2:** Skip this part.

**Part 3:** Skip this part.

**Part 4:** Skip this part.

**Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.

**Part 6:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.

**Part 7:** We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

#### If some of the children in the household are foster children:

**Part 1:** List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the "No Income" box. Check the box if the child is a foster child.

**Part 2:** If the household does not have a 7 or 10-digit SNAP or OWF case number, skip this part.

**Part 3:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call **Lisa Gonzalez at 419-589-2600 or [lgonzalez@madisonrams.net](mailto:lgonzalez@madisonrams.net)**. If not, skip this part.

**Part 4:** Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.

- **Box 1–Name:** List all household members with income.
- **Box 2 –Gross Income and how often it was received:** For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. Check the appropriate box to note how often the person receives the income - weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly. For earnings, list the gross income - not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned *before* taxes and other deductions and can be found on pay stubs. For other income, list the amount and check the box to note how often each person received assistance from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under *All Other Income*, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For **ONLY** the self-employed, report income after expenses under *Earnings from Work*. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or receive combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

# Madison Board of Education

1379 Grace Street • Mansfield, Ohio 44905  
Phone (419) 589-2600

**Part 5: Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.**

**Part 6: Adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of their Social Security Number** (or mark the box if he or she doesn't have one).

**Part 7:** We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

## **ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS (INCLUDING WIC HOUSEHOLDS) FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Part 1:** List all household members and the school name and grade level for each child. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the "No Income Box."

**Part 2:** If the household does not have a 7 or 10-digit SNAP or OWF case number, skip this part.

**Part 3:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call **Lisa Gonzalez at 419-589-2600 or [lgonzalez@madisonrams.net](mailto:lgonzalez@madisonrams.net)**. If not, skip this part.

**Part 4:** Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.

- **Box 1 – Name:** List all household members with income.
- **Box 2 –Gross Income and how often it was received:** For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. Check the box to note how often the person receives the income - weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly. For earnings, be sure to list the gross income - not take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned *before* taxes and other deductions and can be found on pay stubs. For other income, list the amount and check the box to note how often each person received assistance from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under *All Other Income*, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For **ONLY** the self-employed, report income after expenses under *Earnings from Work*. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or receive combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

**Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.

**Part 6: An adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of their Social Security Number** (or mark the box if he or she doesn't have one).

**Part 7:** We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.



# Madison Board of Education

1379 Grace Street • Mansfield, Ohio 44905  
Phone (419) 589-2600

**Part 7. Children's ethnic and racial identities:** We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

Choose one ethnicity:

- Hispanic/Latino  
 Not Hispanic/Latino

Choose one or more (regardless of ethnicity):

- Asian                       American Indian or Alaska Native                       Black or African American  
 White                       Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

## Do not complete this section. Intended for school use only.

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice A Month x 24, Monthly x 12

Total Income: \_\_\_\_\_ Per:  Week,  Every 2 Weeks,  Twice per Month,  Month,  Year Household size: \_\_\_\_\_

Categorical Eligibility: \_\_\_ Date Withdrawn: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility: Free \_\_\_ Reduced \_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_ Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Determining/Approval Official's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirming Official's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Follow-up Official's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If selected for Verification, Date Verification Notice Sent: \_\_\_\_\_ Response Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Notice Sent: \_\_\_\_\_ Results Sent: \_\_\_\_\_

Verification Result: No Change \_\_\_ Free to Reduced Price \_\_\_ Free to Paid \_\_\_ Reduced Price to Free \_\_\_ Reduced Price to Paid \_\_\_

# Madison Board of Education

1379 Grace Street • Mansfield, Ohio 44905  
Phone (419) 589-2600

Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

**Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.**

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You are not required to provide information, but if information is not provided, the state agency cannot approve your child for free or reduced-price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Ohio Works First (OWF) case number or other identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES 2020-2021			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$23,606	\$1,968	\$454
2	31,894	2,658	614
3	40,182	3,349	773
4	48,470	4,040	933
5	56,758	4,730	1,092
6	65,046	5,421	1,251
7	73,334	6,112	1,411
8	81,622	6,802	1,570
Each additional person:	8,288	691	160

child is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: How to File a Complaint, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

# Madison Board of Education

---

1379 Grace Street • Mansfield, Ohio 44905  
Phone (419) 589-2600

Welcome Parents and Students,

Let us help your student with their Food Service process. Most importantly, fill out a Free & Reduced application. Once processed we will let you know your student's status as soon as possible. There is a couple weeks carry-over status from last year's application. So, please make sure to get the application to us immediately.

If there is a balance owed on your student's account, please pay it in full, then put funds on their account to keep it current. You as the parent/guardian have the responsibility to provide funds or a packed lunch for your student. We understand that there are times when things get busy and you forget to send funds or a packed lunch. As in the past, the school will continue with the five charges. After that we will have the student call you for money or to bring a packed meal.

If there continues to be no funds on your student's account they will be allowed to charge five alternate meals. The alternate (emergency meal) will be a cheese sandwich, along with the offer of the required components required by the state. This meal will be charged to your student's account. If you would like your student to continue to have the meal that is on the menu please put funding on their account.

We can't stress enough that you as the parent/guardian need to help us take care of your student with their lunch account. We cannot carry the burden of every student continuously charging their meals. You have an obligation to your student to fill out the Free & Reduced application and provide funding for their meals. As their school Food Service we have an obligation to follow the State and Federal guidelines when providing your student with a healthy nutritious meal.

Along with serving healthy high quality meals to all children we must make sure we are fiscally responsible. Funding can be put on your student's account at [payschoolscentral.com](http://payschoolscentral.com). At this web site you can also arrange for reminders when your students funds are low and track their meals. You as the parent/guardian have the responsibility to help us take care of your student with their meal account. You are not alone, the staff is here to help you with any questions that you might have. If you have any questions about your student's Food Service account please feel free to contact me: Kim Pfleiderer 419-589-1116

Sincerely,

Kim Pfleiderer, Food Service Supervisor