August 2017

Wachusett Regional School District

School Nutrition Public Release

The Wachusett Regional School District utilizes the website www.wrsd.net/foodservices to inform parents and the public of the availability of the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs. The eligibility criteria for the free and reduced price meals are embedded in the meal application and instructions are available by linking to http://www.fns.usda.gov/fr-032316 to see the entire chart.

Annually we post these items on our website, at each school and office in the District, and mail them to homes upon request. They are also provided to all new students with the opening packet. We also utilize an online application processing at the same school website.

All families are notified that if they qualify through the state's database (Virtual Gateway) we will extend those benefits to all children within the household. We ask that they contact us with this information when they are informed that one or more children in the household have been determined eligible.

Margaret Barton
Supervisor of School Nutrition
Wachusett Regional School District
1745 Main Street
Jefferson, MA 01522
(508) 829-1670 Ext. 278
margaret barton@wrsd.net

www.wrsd.net



Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Wachusett Regional School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.50; lunch costs \$3.00 (k-8) and \$3.25 (high school). 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 GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?
 - a. All children in households receiving benefits from MA SNAP or MA TANF are eligible for free meals.
 - b. Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
 - c. Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
 - d. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
 - e. Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

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Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$22,311	\$\$1,860	\$ 430
2	\$30,044	\$2,504	\$ 578
3	\$37,777	\$3,149	\$ 727
4	\$45,510	\$3,793	\$ 876
5	\$53,243	\$4,437	\$1,024
6	\$60,976	\$5,082	\$1,173
7	\$68,709	\$5,726	\$1,322
8	\$76,442	\$6,371	\$1,471
Each additional person:	\$+7,733	\$ +645	\$ +149

- 2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Margaret Barton, Supervisor of School Nutrition, Wachusett Regional School District (508) 829-1670 Ext. 278 or margaret barton@wrsd.net.
- 3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: Margaret Barton, Supervisor of School Nutrition, Wachusett Regional School District, 1745 Main Street, Jefferson, MA 01522 or margaret_barton@wrsd.net.
- 4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Margaret Barton, Supervisor of School Nutrition, Wachusett Regional School District, 1745 Main Street, Jefferson, MA 01522 (508) 829-1670 Ext. 278 or margaret barton@wrsd.net immediately.

Jefferson School

1745 Main Street, Jefferson, MA 01522 Telephone: (508) 829-1670 Facsimile: (508) 829-1680

www.wrsd.net

- 5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit wrsd.net/food services to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact Margaret Barton, Supervisor of School Nutrition, Wachusett Regional School District, 1745 Main Street, Jefferson, MA 01522 (508) 829-1670 Ext. 278 or margaret barton@wrsd.net if you have any questions about the online application.
- 6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
- 7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please send in an application.
- 8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 9. IF I DON'T 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: Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance, Wachusett Regional School District, 1745 Main Street, Jefferson, MA 01522, (508) 829-1670 Ext. 226, joe_scanlon@wrsd.net.
- 11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply 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 \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 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 we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
- 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, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, it must also 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 ISN'T 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 Margaret Barton, Supervisor of School Nutrition, Wachusett Regional School District, 1745 Main Street, Jefferson, MA 01522 (508) 829-1670 Ext. 278 or margaret_barton@wrsd.net with questions.
- 16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for MA SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call the MA SNAP Hotline at (877) 382-2363.

If you have other questions or need help, contact Margaret Barton, Supervisor of School Nutrition, Wachusett Regional School District, 1745 Main Street, Jefferson, MA 01522 (508) 829-1670 Ext. 278 or margaret_barton@wrsd.net at (508) 829-1670 Ext. 278.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free or reduced price school meals. You only need to submit one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in the Wachusett Regional School District. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order. Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact Margaret Barton, Supervisor of School Nutrition, Wachusett Regional School District, 1745 Main Street, Jefferson, MA 01522 (508) 829-1670 Ext. 278 or margaret_barton@wrsd.net.

PLEASE USE A PEN (NOT A PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY

STEP 1: LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHO ARE INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND STUDENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 12

Tell us how many infants, children, and school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here? When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending Wachusett Regional School District regardless of age.

A) List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. When printing names, write one letter in each box. Stop if you run out of space. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.

B) Is the child a student in the Wachusett Regional School District? Mark 'Yes' or 'No' under the column titled "Student' to tell us which children attend school in the Wachusett Regional School District. If you marked 'Yes,' write the grade level of the student in the 'Grade' column to the right.

C) Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. If you are ONLY applying for foster children, after finishing STEP 1, go to STEP 4. Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to step 3.

D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway? If you believe any child listed in this section meets this description, mark the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application.

STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN SNAP, TANF, OR FDPIR?

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).
- A) If no one in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:
- Leave STEP 2 blank and go to STEP 3.
- B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:
- Write the Agency ID for SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR. You only need to provide one Agency ID. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact the SNAP hotline at (877) 382-2363.
- Go to STEP 4.

STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

How do I report my income?

- Use the charts titled "Sources of Income for Adults" and "Sources of Income for Children," printed on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
 - Gross income is the total income received before taxes.
 - Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total, "gross" amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.
- Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.

3.A. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY CHILDREN

A) Report all income earned or received by children. Report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in STEP 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household.

What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do not have any child income.

3.B REPORT INCOME EARNED BY ADULTS

Who should I list here?

- When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.
- - o People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household.
 - Infants, Children and students already listed in STEP 1.
- B) List adult household members' names. Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." Do not list any household members you listed in STEP 1. If a child listed in STEP 1 has income, follow the instructions in STEP 3, part A.
- E) Report Income from pensions/retirement/all other income. Report all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income" field on the application.
- C) Report earnings from work. Report all Income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a selfemployed business or farm owner, you will report your net income.
- What if I am self-employed? Report income from that work as a net amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.
- F) Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in STEP 1 and STEP 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced price meals.
- D) Report income from public assistance/child support/alimony. Report all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.
- G) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."

STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.

- A) Provide your contact information. Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced price school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.
- B) Print and sign your name and write today's date. Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."
- C) Mail Completed
 Form to:
 Margaret Barton
 Supervisor of School
 Nutrition
 Wachusett Regional
 School District
 1745 Main Street
 Jefferson, MA 01522
- D) Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price school meals.

Jefferson, MA 01522 by October 1, 2017.

SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Dear Parent/Guardian:	
ather programs for which your children may qualif	gave on your Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application may be shared with fy. For the following programs, we must have your permission to share your whether your children get free or reduced price meals.
Yes! I DO want school officials to share in Wachusett Regional School District At	formation from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with hletic Activities Fees
Yes! I DO want school officials to share in Wachusett Regional School District Ex	formation from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with tra-curricular Activities, Class Dues
Yes! DO want school officials to share in for PSAT, SAT, College Application, Full	formation from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with Fees II-day Kindergarten
child(ren) listed below. Your information will be s	e, fill out the form below to ensure that your information is shared for the hared only with the programs you checked.
Child's Name:	School:
	Date:
Printed Name:	
Address:	
For more information, you may contact Margaret 1745 Main Street, Jefferson, MA 01522 (508) 8	t Barton, Supervisor of School Nutrition, Wachusett Regional School District, 829-1670 Ext. 278 or margaret barton@wrsd.net.

Return this form to Margaret Barton, Supervisor of School Nutrition, Wachusett Regional School District, 1745 Main Street,

If your child is eligible for free or reduced school meals, your child may also be eligible for

free or low cost health insurance through MassHealth.

To learn more call: 1-800-841-2900

MassHealth

Si su niño es eligible para almuerzo gratís o reducido, su niño pueda ser eligible para seguro de salud gratís o de bajo costo

por medio de MassHealth.

Para saber mas, llame al: 1-800-841-2900

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2017-2018 Massachusetts Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

If you have received a Notice of Direct Certification – FREE from the school district for free meals, do not complete this application. DO let the school know if any children in the household are not listed on the Notice of Direct Certification – FREE letter you received.

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Do any Household Members (including you) currently participate in	one or more of the following a	ssistance programs: SI	NAP, TANF, or FDPIR?				
Write the Agency ID Number, then go to STEP 4 [Do not complete STEP 3]	Do not provide EBT card	number.	Agency ID Numbe	L: -			
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Child income. report total gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) to receive income. report total gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) to receive income. report total gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) to receive income. Report total gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) to receive income. Report total gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) to receive income. Report total gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) to receive income. Report total gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) to receive income. Report total gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) to receive income. Report total gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) to receive income. Report growth glawsky lawsky lawsk

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Contact Information and Adult Signature Mail Completed Form To: Margaret Barton, Supervisor of School Nutrition, Wachusett Regional School District, 1745 Main Street, Jefferson, MA 01522

"certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws." Error prone Daytime Phone and Email (optional) Today's date Zip State Signature of adult City Apt # Printed name of adult signing the form Street Address (if available)

INSTRUCTIONS

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Sources of Inc	Sources of Income for Children
Sources of Child Income	Example(s)
- Earnings from work	- A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages
- Social Security - Disability Payments	- A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits
- Survivor's Benefits	- A Parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits
-Income from person outside the household	- A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money
-Income from any other source	- A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust

ılts	Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income	 Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) Private pensions or disability benefits 	 Regular income from trusts or estates Annuities Investment income 	Farned interest Rental income Regular cash payments from outside	household
Sources of Income for Adults	Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	Unemployment benefits Worker's compensation Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance from State or local	government - Alimony payments - Child cupport payments	- Veteran's benefits	
	Earnings from Work	 Salary, wages, cash bonuses Net income from self- employment (farm or business) If you are in the U.S. Military: 	 Basicpayand cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized bouring allowance) 	- Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing	

American Indian or Alaskan Native	☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Island
	□ White
Black or African American	
n mala Africar	in or Alaskan Native n American

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 Racial and Ethnic Identities children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. OPTIONAL

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we 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), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TAMF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR 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 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

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, religious creed, disability, age,

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	2017-201	For IN Massachusetts Applica	<u>For School Use Only</u> 2017-2018 Massachusetts Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals	Price School Meals	
Total Income Household Size	Income Co	version:		Eligibility:	Categorical Eligibility
Only annualize income if there are multiple pay frequencies How often?	Weekly x Every 2 Weeks x Twice A Month x Monthly x	× × × 52 × × × 24 × 12		Free Reduced Denied	
Weeky B-Weeky 2 Month Month Annaly O O O O Determining Official's Signature	Date	Confirming Official's Signature	Date	Verifying Official's Signature	sture Date