## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2022-23

#### Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Monona Grove School District offers healthy meals every school day. Your students may qualify for free meals or reduced-price meals. Reduced-price means that breakfast is free and lunch is \$0.40. 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?

- All students in households receiving benefits from FoodShare, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or W-2 cash benefits are eligible for free meals, when listed on the application.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Students participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Students who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Students may qualify to receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines (below):

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2022-2023					
Household size	Yearly (\$)	Monthly (\$)	Weekly (\$)		
1	25,142	2,096	484		
2	33,874	2,823	652		
3	42,606	3,551	820		
4	51,338	4,279	988		
5	60,070	5,006	1,156		
6	68,802	5,734	1,324		
7	77,534	6,462	1,492		
8	86,266	7,189	1,659		
Each additional person:	8,732	728	168		

- 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 students living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe students in your household meet these descriptions and have not been told your students will get free meals, please call or e-mail Christa Foster.
- 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: <a href="mailto:school.nutrition@mgschools.net">school.nutrition@mgschools.net</a> or

Monona Grove School District Attn: School Nutrition 5301 Monona Drive Monona, WI 53716

4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS? Please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If your letter indicated you qualify for free meals, then no application is needed. If any students in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Terri O'Neil at 608-316-1894 or <u>school.nutrition@mgschools.net</u> immediately. If your household was notified it qualified for reduced-price meals, we encourage you to complete an application to determine if your household will qualify for free meals based on household size and income.

- 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 <u>https://tinyurl.com/ycytamuz</u> to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact Terri O'Neil at 608-316-1894 or <u>school.nutrition@mgschools.net</u> if you have any questions about the application process.
- 6. MY STUDENT'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your student's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through October 14, 2022, or when a new eligibility is determined. You must submit a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new/upcoming school year. If you do not submit a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your student is eligible for free meals, your student will be charged the full price for meals.
- 7. I RECEIVE WIC BENEFITS. CAN MY STUDENTS GET FREE MEALS? Students in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced-price meals, but it is based on income. Please submit an application.
- 8. MY CHILD(REN) QUALIFIES FOR BADGERCARE PLUS OR MEDICAID. CAN MY CHILD GET FREE MEALS? Children with BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, or subsidized insurance <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced-price meals, but it is based on household income and household size. Please submit an application to determine if your household qualifies.
- 9. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 10. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, students with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed or experience a financial hardship may become eligible for free and reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- 11. 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: Mark Powell at 5301 Monona Drive Monona, WI 53716 or 608-316-1916.
- 12. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your students, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced-price meals.
- 13. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you <u>normally</u> 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.
- 14. 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 <u>also</u> be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you <u>meant</u> to do so.
- 15. 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 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. Do not include any combat pay resulting from deployment as income.
- 16. 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.
- 17. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for FoodShare or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-362-3002. Complete the waiver after your application (on page 7 of this packet) to relieve your household of school fees.

If you have other questions or need help, call 608-316-1894.

Sincerely,

Maggie Sanna, School Nutrition Director

# 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 students attend more than one school in Monona Grove School District. The application must be filled out completely to certify your students for free or reduced-price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact Terri O'Neil at 608-316-1894 or school.nutrition@mgschools.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 grades 12 or under AND are supported with the household's income; and
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth, or enrolled in a Head Start program.

A) List each child's name. Print each child's	B) Enter the grade and the name	C) Do you have any foster children? If any children	D) Are any children homeless, migrant,
name. Use one line of the application for each	of the school the child attends or	listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box	runaway or enrolled in a Head Start
child. When printing names, write one letter in	mark n/a if not in school.	next to the children's names. If you are ONLY applying	program? If you believe any child listed in
each box. Stop if you run out of space. If there		for foster children, after finishing <b>STEP 1</b> , go to <b>STEP 4</b> .	this section meets this description, mark
are more children in household than lines on		Foster children who live with you may count as	the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway or Head
the application, attach a second piece of paper		members of your household and should be listed on	Start" box next to the child's name and
with all required information for the additional		your application. If you are applying for both foster and	complete all steps of the application.
children.		non-foster children, go to step 3.	

## STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN FoodShare, W-2 Cash Benefits 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) or FoodShare.
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or W-2 Cash Benefits.
- The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

A) If no one in your household participates in any of the	B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above assistance programs:
above listed programs:	• Write a case number and <u>name of the assistance program</u> you or any member of the household participates in
• Leave STEP 2 blank or check "No" and go to STEP 3.	for FoodShare, W-2 Cash Benefits, or FDPIR. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in
	one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact your case worker. Medicaid and
	BadgerCare case numbers do NOT qualify for free or reduced-price meals.
	• 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 Children" and "Sources of Income for Adults," 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" (listed as "net pay" on paycheck stub) 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.

<ul> <li>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.</li> <li>Mark how often each type of income is received using the boxes to the right of each field.</li> </ul>					
3.A. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY CHILDREN					
A) Report all income earned or received by children. Report th	e combined gross income for ALL	children listed in STEP 1 in y	our house	hold in the box marked "Child Income." Only	
count foster children's personal income if you are applying for	them together with the rest of yo	ur household.			
What is Child Income? Child income is money received from ou	tside your household that is paid	DIRECTLY to your children. N	Many hous	eholds do not have any child income.	
3.B. REPORT INCOME EARNED BY ADULTS					
<ul> <li>List adult household members' names.</li> <li>Print the name of each household member in the boxes members in your household who are living with you and s</li> <li>Do NOT include:         <ul> <li>People who live with you but are not supported by your</li> <li>Infants, children, and students already listed in STEP 1.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	nare income and expenses, <u>even i</u>	f they are not related and ev	ven if they	do not receive income of their own.	
<ul> <li>C) Report earnings from work. Report all total gross income (before taxes) 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 self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	D) Report income from public a support/alimony/SSI/VA benef the "Public Assistance/Child Sup Do not report the cash value of a listed on the chart. If income is r alimony, only report court-order payments should be reported as	its. Report all income that app port/Alimony" field on the ap any public assistance benefits eceived from child support or red payments. Informal but re	plication. <u>NOT</u> gular	E) Report income from pensions/retirement/all other income. Report all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/Social Security/All Other Income" field on the application.	
F) Fluctuating Income. For seasonal workers and others whose income fluctuates and usually earn more money in some months than others. In these situations, project the annual rate of income and report that. This includes workers with annual employment contracts but may choose to have salaries paid over a shorter period of time; for example, school employees.	Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in STEP 1 and STEP 3. If there are any members ofmember must enter the last four digits of their SSN in the space provided. You are eligible to				
STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE					
An adult member of the household must sign the application. 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>B) Print or sign your name.</b> The adult filling out the application must print or sign their name in the signature box.	<b>C) Return completed</b> <b>form to:</b> MGSD Attn: School Nutrition 5301 Monona Drive Monona, WI 53716	(optiona to share ethnicity	<b>c children's racial and ethnic identities</b> <b>I).</b> On the back of the application, we ask you information about your children's race and 7. This field is optional and does not affect your 's eligibility for free or reduced-price school	

## 2022-2023 Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

Apply online at: https://tinyurl.com/ycytamuz .

Complete one application per household. Use a pen (not a pencil).

STEP 1	List ALL infants, child	dren, and student	s up to and including gra	de 12 who are Househ	old Members	If more spaces are required for	or additional names, attach another sheet of paper.
Definition of I	Household Member: "Anyor	ne who is living with ye	ou and shares income and expe	nses, even if not related."			
Child's Firs	st Name	M	II Child's Last Name			Grade	School the child attends or Hometess, NA if not in school Child Runaway Start
STEP 2	Do any Household Mer	mbers (including y	you) currently participate i	n any of the following as			
						Number	Program Name (Required)
If you answe	ered NO > Complete STEP 3. I	If you answered YES	> Write a case number here, the	n go to STEP 4 (Do not comple	-		
eted 2	Depart Income for AL		have (align this stop if you or			nly one case number in this space.	Medicaid and Badger Care do not qualify.
STEP 3	Report income for ALI	L Housenoid Men	nbers (skip this step if you ar	isweled tes to STEP 2)	, in the second s	Flip the page and review the cha	rts titled "Sources of Income" for more information.
A. Child Inco Sometimes		am income. Please in	clude the TOTAL income earned	by all infants, children and st	udents up to and	Child income Week	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	rade 12 listed in STEP 1 here			n by an interior, or indion and of		\$	
	Household Members (in						
			elf) even if they do not receive in eive income from any source, write				e is no income to report. F. Seasonal Workers, and
Name of A	dult Household Members	С.	How often?	D. Public Assistance/ Child Support/	How often?	E. Pensions/Retirement/ Social Security,	others with fluctuating income, project the annual income and
(Firs	st and Last Name)	Earnings from Wor	k Weekly BI-Weekly 2x Month Monthly	Alimony/SSI/VA Benefit We	ekiy BI-Weekiy 2x Month I	Monthly Other Income	Weekiy Bi-Weekiy 2x Month Monthly report here.
		\$					
		\$		\$		\$	
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G. Total Household Members (Children and Adults)—REQUIRED H. Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Household Member—REQUIRED or check box if no SSN X X X X Check box if no SSN Check box if no SSN							
STEP 4 Contact information and adult signature Return completed form to your school. Insert your school district mailing address here							
"I 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."							
Street Address	s (if available)		Apt # City		State	Zip	Daytime Phone and Email (optional)
						· ·     ·	•
Printed Name	OR Signature of Adult Comple	ting this ApplicationR	EQUIRED			Todavie Dat	e Mo./Dav/Yr.

### INSTRUCTIONS Source of Income

Sources of Income for Children			So	lults	
Sources of Child Income	Example(s)		Earnings from Work	Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support	Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income
- Gross earnings from work	<ul> <li>A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages</li> </ul>		- Gross salary, wages, cash bonuses	– Unemployment benefits – Worker's compensation	- Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)
<ul> <li>Social Security</li> <li>Disability payments</li> <li>Survivor's benefits</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits</li> <li>A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits</li> </ul>	business); FARM—refer to line 3 and 6 of Schedule 1 or line 34 from Schedule F; BUSINESS—line 31 from Schedule C or 1040-Line 8, Wage and Statement, Line 3.		– Supplemental Security     Income (SSI)     – Cash assistance from State     or local government     – Alimony payments     – Child support payments	<ul> <li>Private pensions or disability benefits</li> <li>Regular income from trusts or estates</li> <li>Annuities</li> <li>Investment income</li> <li>Earned interest</li> <li>Rental income</li> <li>Regular cash payments from outside</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Income from person outside the household</li> </ul>	n outside - A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money		<ul> <li>Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Income from any other source</li> <li>A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust</li> </ul>				– Strike benefits	household
OPTIONAL Children's Racial and Ethnic 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.

Ethnicity Check one Hispanic or Latino Not Race Check one or more American Indian or Alaskan Native	Hispanic or Latino	or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your chil meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the ad signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not req behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program or (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indic member signing the application does not have a social security number. We wil determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for admin the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information w nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their p program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violation In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture ( policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, or gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Pe alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, I Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers Center at (202) 720-2800 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal	d for free or reduced price       To file         d for free or reduced price       Disoft         uit household member who       Disoft         uired when you apply on       OASG         i (SNAP), Temporary       or by         on Indian Reservations       and a         sate that the adult household       Right         ill use your information to       subm         istration and enforcement of       1.         orograms, auditors for       s of program rules.         USDA) civil rights regulations and       2.         olor, national origin, sex (including for prior civil rights activity.       3.         rsons with disabilities who require arge print, audiotape, American Sign the program or USDA's TARGET       This         Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.       The a	imination Complaint Form which c CR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0 writing a letter addressed to USD/ a written description of the alleged	r 2; or provider. ion complaint purposes only.
Do not fill out For School Use Only	Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52,	Bi-weekly (Every 2 Weeks) x 28	Twice a Month x 24, Monthly x 12
Total Income How often?	Household Categorical Size Eligibility	Eligibility Free Reduced Denied	Date Denied Mo/Day/Yr. Reason for Denial or Withdrawal
Determining Official's Signature Date Mo./Day/Yr.	Confirming Official's Signature Required for Verification process only	Date Mo./Day/	Yr.     Verifying Official's Signature     Date Mo./Day/Yr.       Required for Verification process only     Required for Verification process only

## SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Congratulations! You are eligible for additional benefits because your student(s) qualifies for free or reduced-price school meals. <u>To receive these benefits, you must opt-in below</u>. What you need to know:

• You <u>will</u> be charged school fees if you do not complete and return this form. The School Nutrition Department keeps your meal eligibility confidential from other programs unless you allow us to report that you should not be charged school fees (listed below).

- Free and reduced-price meal eligibility is determined every school year. Because of this, this form needs to be signed and returned every school year as well.
- If you decline sharing your information with other programs, your child will still qualify to receive free or reduced-price meals. We hope to see them in the lunch line!
- □ Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share the results of my Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application with other Monona Grove School District officials for the purpose of all of the below programs (or select only those that apply):

□ to waive district registration, summer school, co-curricular, and extra-curricular fees.

 $\Box$  to receive information on donated school supplies.

 $\hfill\square$  to receive information on district holiday programs.

□ No! I **DO NOT** want information from my Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application shared with any of these programs and understand that I will be responsible for paying fees to my student(s)'s school(s).

Please list all students for whom this waiver applies:

Child's Name:	School: MGHS/MG21/GDS/GRS/CGS/TP/Winn
Child's Name:	School: MGHS/MG21/GDS/GRS/CGS/TP/Winn
Signature of Parent/Guardian:	Date:
Printed Name:	

Please contact School Nutrition with questions at <u>school.nutrition@mgschools.net</u> or 608-316-1894.

### Return this form:

- In person: to the District or any school office
- Mail: Monona Grove District Office Attn: School Nutrition 5301 Monona Drive Monona WI 53716
- Email: <u>school.nutrition@mgschools.net</u>.
- Online: Use the QR code to the right.

