
FALL RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Fall River Public Schools offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast is Free and included in our Universal Breakfast Program; lunch costs **\$1.70 for elementary school, and \$1.95 for middle/high school**. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is **\$.40** for lunch.

1. **DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. *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 your child's school.
2. **WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?** All children in households receiving benefits from **Massachusetts SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations** or **Massachusetts TANF**, can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.
3. **CAN FOSTER CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** **Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income.**
4. **CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, AND MIGRANT CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Barbara Allard- ballard@fallriverschools.org 508-675-8367 to see if they qualify.
5. **WHO CAN GET REDUCED PRICE MEALS?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Eligibility Income Chart, shown on this application.
6. **SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?** Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call your child's school if you have questions.
7. **MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER 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.
8. **I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an application.
9. **WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes and we may also ask you to send written proof.
10. **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.
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 the Parent Information Center: Barbara Allard- ballard@fallriverschools.org 508-675-8367.
12. **MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?** Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
13. **WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD?** You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses.

You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.

14. **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.
15. **WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS INCOME?** If you get an off-base housing allowance, it 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.
16. **MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS HER COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME?** No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment and it wasn't received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
17. **MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?** To find out how to apply for **Massachusetts SNAP** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-249-2007 .

If you have other questions or need help, call 508-675-8367.

Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono: 508-675-8367.

Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero: 508-675-8367.

Sincerely,

Dr. Matthew Malone

Superintendent of Schools

2016-2017 Prototype Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

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

<p>Definition of Household Member: "Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related."</p> <p>Children in Foster care and children who meet the definition of Homeless, Migrant or Runaway are eligible for free meals. Read How to Apply for Free and Reduced Price School Meals for more information.</p>	Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	Grade	Student? Yes No		Homeless, Migrant, Runaway Foster Child	
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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STEP 2 Do any Household Members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, TANF, or FDIPIR?

If **NO** > Go to STEP 3. If **YES** > Write a case number here then go to STEP 4 (Do not complete STEP 3)

Case Number: Write only one case number in this space.

STEP 3 Report Income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered 'Yes' to STEP 2)

Are you unsure what income to include here?

Flip the page and review the charts titled "Sources of Income" for more information.

The "Sources of Income for Children" chart will help you with the Child Income section.

The "Sources of Income for Adults" chart will help you with the All Adult Household Members section.

A. Child Income
Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Please include the TOTAL income received by all Household Members listed in STEP 1 here.

Child income	How often?			
	Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly
\$ <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

B. All Adult Household Members (including yourself)
List all Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	Earnings from Work	How often?				Public Assistance/ Child Support/Alimony	How often?				Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income	How often?			
		Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly		Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly		Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Total Household Members (Children and Adults)

Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Household Member

Check if no SSN

STEP 4 Contact information and adult signature

"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."

<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Apt #	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	City	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	State	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Zip	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Daytime Phone and Email (optional)
<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>		<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>		<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>		<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>		<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Printed name of adult signing the form		Signature of adult						Today's date	

