



Policy Update

School Call: July 26, 2023

David Dierksen, Assistant Director for Policy



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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Food and Nutrition Division
National School Lunch Program



Updated 7/25/2023
www.SquareMeals.org

New Releases

- 2023-2024 Applications for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals (NDS)
- 2023-2024 Application Letter to Household (NDS)
- 2023-2024 Application Directions
- 2023-2024 Letters to Household (now consolidated)
- Media Release Prototypes (now consolidated)

2023-2024 Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

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

Return to:
or Apply Online:

Contracting Entity (CE) Name
CE Mailing Address
[CE Website](#)

STEP 1 List ALL Household Members who are infants, children, and students up to and including grade 12

If more spaces are needed, use the Additional Names section on the back.

Definition of Household Member:
"Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related."

Children in **Foster Care, Head Start**, and children who meet the definition of **Homeless, Migrant, or Runaway** are eligible for free meals. Read the directions for more information.

Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	Student?		Grade	Check any that apply		
			Yes	No		Head Start	Foster Child	Homeless, Migrant, Runaway
			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 the Eligibility Determination Group (EDG, n/a for FDIPIR) number here, then go to STEP 4 (do not complete STEP 3). EDG Number

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

A. Last four digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of an Adult Household Member XXX- XX- Check if no SSN ☐

B. Income for 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. Report the frequency by income type: W=Weekly, E=Every 2 Weeks, T=Twice per Month, M=Monthly, A=Annually. 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. If more spaces are needed, use the Additional Names section on the back.

Name of Adult Household Members (First & Last)	Work Earnings	Frequency					Public Assistance/ Child Support/Alimony	Frequency	Pensions/Retirement/ Social Security/SSI/ VA Benefits/All Other	Frequency								
		W	E	T	M	A					W	E	T	M	A			
	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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C. Income for Children in the Household

Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Please include the TOTAL income received by all Child Household Members listed in STEP 1 here. If applicable, include income from additional children listed on back. Income frequency conversion key provided on back.

Total Child Income W ☐ E ☐ T ☐ M ☐ A ☐

D. Total Household Members
(Children & Adults)

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 type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Street address (if available)	Apt #	City	State	Zip code
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		
Printed name of adult signing the form		Signature of adult		Today's date


June 12, 2023



NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

New Releases

Policy and ARM for NSLP

Administration/Forms	Policy Updates and News 
Back to Student Meal Rates	All the most current resources you need to successfully operate the School Nutrition Programs are available here. TDA keeps this page updated with any new policy updates and news, including the following:
CFDA/FAIN Numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Handbook release notices with update summaries ▪ Form release notices ▪ Brand new policy updates that have not yet been updated within the handbooks ▪ FAQs and other resources, as required
Compliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Financial Report 	
Disaster Resources	
Eligibility and Verification	Please bookmark this page and check back periodically.
Equipment Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Application 	
Food Service Management Companies	<p>July 13, 2023 - RELEASE: School Year 2023-2024 Frequently Asked Questions</p> <p>A brand new set of FAQs for NSLP/SBP is now available here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School Year 2023-2024 NSLP/SBP Frequently Asked Questions <p>Note the FAQs are now only available on this page. TDA will pin this entry to the top of this Policy Updates and News module and update as required. Please bookmark this page and check back frequently.</p>
Food Waste	
Funding Opportunities	
Latest News	
Local Wellness Policy Requirements	

<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/National-School-Lunch-Program/Policy-ARM>

New SY 2023-2024 FAQs

- On the Policy/ARM page
- Under Policy Updates and News
- Use the + sign to expand the module.

Coming soon!

- ARM Update (multiple sections for clarification)
- Verification letter templates



New Releases

Noncongregate Extreme Heat Waiver

- Sites are outdoors and exposed to the weather.
- No alternative, temperature-controlled locations at which to provide congregate summer service.
- The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a Heat Advisory, Excessive Heat Warning, or Excessive Heat Watch for the area.

<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/Summer-Meal-Programs/Administration-Forms>



New Releases

Noncongregate Extreme Heat Waiver

- One request form per day (multiple sites can be submitted per form)
- Must be grab-n-go and served directly to children DAILY.
 - Parent pick-up NOT allowed.
 - Multi-day bundling NOT allowed.
- Do **not** need to indicate intent to participate in the site applications.

<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/Summer-Meal-Programs/Administration-Forms>



Reimbursement Rates

2023-2024 reimbursement rates published to SquareMeals:

- <https://squaremeals.org/Programs/National-School-Lunch-Program/Reimbursement-Rates>
- Extra \$0.40 per lunch and \$.15 provided by the Keep Kids Fed Act expired June 30, 2023.
- New rates reflect an adjustment to the base rate from Program Year (SY) 2022–2023.



End of COVID-19 Flexibilities

Ended June 30:

- Offsite monitoring waivers
 - For allowable offsite flexibilities and strategies:
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/oversight-monitoring-onsite-offsite-school-meals-programs>
- Fiscal action flexibility for supply chain disruptions
- Keep Kids Fed Act (KKFA) higher reimbursements
- Non-congregate waivers in the event of a COVID outbreak.

