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OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
STATE OF MONTANA

Putting Montana Students First **A<sup>+</sup>**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 31, 2020

The Office of Public Instruction School Nutrition Programs is announcing all [Montana educational organizations](#) that participate in and offer free and reduced price school meals or free milk. The U. S. Department of Agriculture reimburses organizations for healthy meals served to enrolled students according to National School Lunch Program policy guidelines.

Schools who offer meals to students at no cost through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and Provision 2 do not require families to apply for benefits using a household application.

Schools who operate pricing programs determine student eligibility through household application. You may apply for school meal/milk benefits at any time throughout the year by submitting a [household application](#) directly to your school. Children may be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals or free milk if household income is within the limits of [income eligibility](#). For further information on applying, refer to the [frequently asked questions](#) or contact your child's school.

Households who receive assistance from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR); or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are eligible for free meals/milk and no application is required. Children who meet the definition of homeless, migrant, runaway, and foster are also eligible for free meals/milk. The school district will send a notice to your household about free meal/milk benefits. If you do not receive a notice of eligibility or there are children living in your household who are not listed, please contact your school district. Households who choose to decline free meal benefits should contact their local school district.

If you are eligible for unemployment compensation, you might also be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals or free milk.

Please contact your school for additional information and assistance.

### **Nondiscrimination Statement**

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, \(AD-3027\)](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), 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.