**REVISED - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS AUBURN Public Schools MUST COMPLETE BY AUGUST 31, 2022 and sent or delivered to Auburn Public Schools, 5 West Street, Auburn, MA 01501**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Auburn Public Schools offers healthy breakfast and lunch meals every school day. Breakfast costs FREE; lunch costs FREE. ALL **children qualify for FREE for the 2022-2023 school year.**

This packet includes an application for USDA meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions are included. ***Meals are FREE for all students in MA this coming school year HOWEVER, ALL families must fill out an application if you feel you might qualify as the application must be received by AUGUST 31, 2022. The determination of eligibility of your application will be utilized if PEBT benefits are extended past August SUMMER EBT. Families may also qualify for other social service agency benefits and would need your paper USDA application reviewed to determine your eligibility to quality your household based upon your entire household income and the number of individuals that are in your household. PLEASE RESPOND QUICKLY.***

1. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process. Who can get free OR REDUCED PRICE meals?
	* All children in households receiving benefits from **MA State SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)** or **MA State TANF**, are eligible for free meals.
	* Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
	* Children participating in their school’s Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
	* Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
	* 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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| **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   |

1. 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, we may be able to help you with other programs available besides FREE meals at school. Please call or e-mail Auburn Public Schools at 508-832-7755 or mail a request to Gregory Walton, 5 West Street, Auburn, MA 01501, or email to gwalton@auburn.k12.ma.us.
2. 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: Janice King, Director of Food Services, 9 West Street, 508-832-7722 x4122 or [jking@auburn.k12.ma.us](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CJanice%20King%5CDownloads%5Cjking%40auburn.k12.ma.us).
3. 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 Janice King, 9 West Street, Auburn, MA 508-832-7722 x4122**, or jking@auburn.k12.ma.us.**
4. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? No unfortunately not at this time**.**
5. MY CHILD’S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? No. Meals are FREE for all students for the 2022-2023 school year.
6. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Yes, Meals are Free for All students for 2022-2023.
7. Will the information I give be checked? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report, only if you submit an application.
8. 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 other social service agency programs and we can review a paper application for you at any time to determine your eligibility status.
9. 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:  **Cecelia Wirzbicki, Business Manager, Auburn Public Schools, 5 West Street, Auburn, MA 0150, 508-832-7755, cwirzbicki@auburn.k12.ma.us**.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. We are in the military. do we REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY?Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. Ifyou 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. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
14. WHAT IF THERE ISN’T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR ALL MY FAMILY Members? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application. Contact **Janice King, 9 West Street, 508-832-7722 x4122 or jking@auburn.k12.ma.us to receive a second application.**
15. My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for? To find out how to apply for **MA State SNAP** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **State hotline 1-800-645-8333** [https://www.projectbread.org/foodsource-hotline.](https://www.projectbread.org/foodsource-hotline.%20)

If you have other questions or need help, call 508-832-7722 x 4122

 **Janice King, Director of Food Services**