

# Union Local School District

66779 Belmont-Morristown Road; Belmont, Ohio 43718  
Phone: (740)782-1978 fax: (740)782-1212

## Frequently Asked Questions About Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. The UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT offers healthy meals each school day. Breakfast costs **FREE** and lunch costs **\$3.00 AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND \$3.25 MIDDLE SCHOOL / HIGH SCHOOL**. **Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals.** Reduced price is **FREE** for breakfast and **\$.40** for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits and detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

- 1. Who can receive free or reduced-price meals?** All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Ohio Works First (OWF); foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court; children participating in their school's Head Start program; and children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals. Also, your children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the federal income eligibility guidelines limits.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES 2023-2024			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$26,973	\$2,248	\$519
2	36,482	3,041	702
3	45,991	3,833	885
4	55,500	4,625	1,068
5	65,009	5,418	1,251
6	74,518	6,210	1,434
7	84,027	7,003	1,616
8	93,536	7,795	1,799
Each Additional Person:	9,509	793	183

- 2. How do I know if my children qualify as homeless, migrant or runaway?** If members of your household lack a permanent address; are staying together in a shelter, hotel or other temporary housing arrangement; relocate on a seasonal basis or; children live with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household then the children may qualify as homeless, migrant or runaway. If you have not been told your children will receive free meals, please call or email **your building principal** to see if they qualify.
- 3. Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Use one free and reduced-price school meal application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete. Please submit all required information. **Return the completed application to Kathy Fowkes, Director of Food Service, 66779 Belmont Morristown Rd., Belmont, Ohio 43718 or call 740-782-1181 ext. 3934.**
- 4. Should I complete an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are approved already for free meals?** No, but please read the letter carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from the eligibility notification, contact **Kathy Fowkes, Director of Food Service, 66779 Belmont Morristown Rd., Belmont, Ohio 43718 or call 740-782-1181 ext. 3934** immediately.

If you have other questions or need help, call **740-782-1181, ext. 3934**  
*Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono: 740-782-1181, ext. 3934*  
*Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero: 740-782-1181, ext. 3934.*

Sincerely,

**Kathy Fowkes, Director of Food Service**  
**Union Local Schools**  
**740-782-1181, ext. 3934**  
**[kfowkes@ulschools.com](mailto:kfowkes@ulschools.com)**

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

*A household member is any child or adult living with you.*

### IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES BENEFITS FROM THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) OR OHIO WORKS FIRST (OWF), FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

**Part 1:** List all household members and the school name and grade level for each child.

**Part 2:** List the 7-digit case number for any household member (including adults) receiving SNAP or OWF benefits.

**Part 3:** Skip this part.

**Part 4:** Skip this part.

**Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.

**Part 6:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.

**Part 7:** 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.

### IF NO ONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES SNAP OR OWF BENEFITS AND IF ANY CHILD IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS HOMELESS, MIGRANT OR RUNAWAY, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

**Part 1:** List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child.

**Part 2:** Skip this part.

**Part 3:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway, check the appropriate box and call. If not, skip this part.

**Part 4:** Complete only if a child in your household is not eligible under Part 3. See Instruction for all other households.

**Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.

**Part 6:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary if you did not need to complete in part 4.

**Part 7:** 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.

### IF YOU APPLY FOR A FOSTER CHILD, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

#### **If all children in the household are foster children:**

**Part 1:** List all foster children and the school name and grade level for each child. Check the box that indicates the child is a foster child.

**Part 2:** Skip this part.

**Part 3:** Skip this part.

**Part 4:** Skip this part.

**Part 5:** Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.

**Part 6:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.

**Part 7:** 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.

#### **If some children in the household are foster children:**

**Part 1:** List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the "No Income" box. Check the box if the child is a foster child.

**Part 2:** If the household does not have a 7-digit SNAP or OWF case number, skip this part.

**Part 3:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call **Dr. Zac Shutler, Superintendent @ zshutler@ulschools.com or 740-782-1978 Ext. 2501**. If not, skip this part.

**Part 4:** Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.

- **Box 1–Name:** List all household members with income.
- **Box 2 –Gross Income and how often it was received:** For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. Check the appropriate box to note how often the person receives the income - weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly. For earnings, list the gross income - not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned *before* taxes and other deductions and can be found on pay stubs. For other income, list the amount and check the box to note how often each person received assistance from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under *All Other Income*, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For **ONLY** the self-employed, report income after expenses under *Earnings from Work*. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or receive combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

## 2023-2024 FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS APPLICATION

### Part 1. ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Names of <u>all</u> household members (First, Middle Initial, Last)	Name of school and grade level for each child/or indicate "NA" if child is not in school.  School Grade	Check if a foster child (legal responsibility of welfare agency or court) *If all children listed below are foster children, skip to Part 5 to sign this form.	Check if No Income
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Part 2. BENEFITS:** If any member of your household receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Ohio Works First (OWF) benefits, provide the name and 7-digit case number for the person who receives benefits and skip to Part 5. If no one receives these benefits, skip to Part 3.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ 7-DIGIT CASE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 3. If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call or email Dr. Zac Shutler, Superintendent @ zshutler@ulschools.com or 740-782-1978 Ext. 2501**  
 Homeless  Migrant  Runaway

**Part 4. TOTAL HOUSEHOLD GROSS INCOME (before deductions).** List all income on the same line as the person who receives it. Check the box for how often it is received. Record each income only once.

1. NAME (List all household members with income)	2. GROSS INCOME AND HOW OFTEN IT WAS RECEIVED															
	Earnings from work before deductions					Welfare, child support, alimony					Pensions, retirement, Social Security, SSI, VA benefits					All Other Income (indicate frequency, such as "weekly" "monthly" "quarterly" "annually")
		Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Twice Monthly	Monthly		Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Twice Monthly	Monthly		Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Twice Monthly	Monthly	
<i>(Example) Jane Smith</i>	\$200	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$150	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50.00/ quarterly
	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____/____
	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____/____
	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____/____
	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____/____

**Part 5. SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL FEE WAIVER ADULT CONSENT:** Your child(ren) may qualify for a waiver of their school instructional fees. Your permission is required to share your meal application information with school officials to determine if your child(ren) qualifies for a fee waiver. Answering this question will not change whether your children will receive free or reduced-price meals. Please check a box:  Yes, I agree to have my meal application used to determine if my child(ren) qualifies for a fee waiver.  
 No, I do not agree to have my meal application used to determine if my child(ren) qualifies for a fee waiver.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 6. SIGNATURE AND LAST FOUR DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (ADULT MUST SIGN)**  
 An adult household member must sign the application. If Part 4 is completed, the adult signing the form must also list the last four digits of his or her Social Security Number or mark the "I do not have a Social Security Number" box. (See Privacy Act Statement on the back of this page.)  
*I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the school will receive federal funds based on the information I give. I understand that school officials may verify (check) the information. I understand that deliberate misrepresentation of the information may cause my children to lose meal benefits and I may be subject to prosecution under state and federal statutes.*  
 Sign here: X \_\_\_\_\_ Print name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last four digits of your Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_  I do not have a Social Security Number

**Part 7. Children's ethnic and racial 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.

Choose one ethnicity: <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic/Latino	Choose one or more (regardless of ethnicity): <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
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