

Augusta School Nutrition Program

40 Pierce Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330

Telephone (207)626-2468 x1141 or 1142

Fax (207) 626-2444

Dear Parents and/or Guardians of Augusta School Children:

The Augusta School Nutrition Program offers a choice of healthy meals each school day. Students may purchase lunch for \$2.25 (PK-6 grades) or \$2.75 (7-12 grades). Those who qualify under U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines may get meals for free or for a reduced price of \$.40 for lunch and no charge for breakfast. All meals served meet nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If a child has a disability, as determined by a doctor, and the disability prevents the child from eating the regular school meal, the school will make substitutions prescribed by a doctor. If a substitution is needed, there will be no extra charge for the meal. Please note, however, that the school is not required to make a substitution for a food allergy, unless it meets the definition of disability. Please call the school for further information.

Your child can receive free school meals if you get SNAP, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or benefits from the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). If your total household income is the same or below the amount on the Income Chart, your child can receive meals either free or at a reduced price.

•All students start school with last school year's eligibility until **Friday, October 13, 2017**. At this time, if the School Nutrition Office has not received a new application, the student's eligibility will revert to full price.

➤ How do I get free or reduced price school meals for my child?

APPLY ONLINE Quick & Easy go to: schoolunchapp.com

or get an application from your school office, complete & return to school.

- **Only complete 1 application per family.** If you have children at more than one Augusta school, list all children in the household, their grade and school and we will assure that they all receive the meal benefits.
- **Households getting SNAP, TANF, or benefits from FDPIR** You only have to include your child's name and case number and an adult household member must sign the form.
- **Households that do not get SNAP, TANF, or benefits from FDPIR If you do not have a case number,** you must include the names of all household members, the amount of income each person got last month and where the income came from. An adult household member must sign the form and include the last four digits of his/her social security number, or indicate that he or she has none.
- **Households with a foster child** You only have to include the child's name and check the box indicating that the child is a Foster Child on the Meal Application, and an adult must sign the form.

2017-2018 School Year Income Guidelines	
FOR REDUCED PRICE MEALS	
Household Size	Monthly
1	\$1860
2	\$2504
3	\$3149
4	\$3793
5	\$4437
6	\$5082
7	\$5726
8	\$6371
For each additional family member add:	
	\$645

➤ **Will the form be verified?** Your eligibility may be checked at any time during the school year. School officials may ask you to send written evidence that shows your child should get free or reduced price school meals.

➤ **Can I appeal the school's decision?** You can talk to school officials if you do not agree with the school's decision on your form. (You also may ask for a fair hearing by calling Ms. Kathy Casparius, Business Manager at 626-2468 Ext. 3282.)

➤ **Will information on my form be kept confidential?** We will use the information on your form to decide if your child should get free or reduced price meals. We may inform officials connected with other child nutrition, health and education programs of the information on your form to determine benefits for those programs or for funding and/or evaluation purposes.

➤ **Can I apply for free and reduced price meals later?** You may apply for free and reduced price meals at any time during the school year. If you are not eligible now, but have a decrease in household income or an increase in household size or become unemployed or get SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, you should apply for free or reduced meals online. You may re-apply at any time.

➤ **Once you have been approved, your child's Free/Reduced benefits last the entire school year even if your income increases.** There is no need to inform us of an increase in income. But if your income goes down or the number of people living in your house goes up, then you should re-apply online or complete a paper application, to increase your benefits.

We will let you know if your application is approved or denied, by email if you apply online or postal mail if we do not have your email address, within 14 business days after processing your application.

Sincerely,

Maureen Thompson

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Director, School Nutrition

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