

The Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Food Service Department offers complete breakfast and lunch meals daily to students. Breakfast and lunch meals include all food items listed in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) nutritional guidelines.

DESE guidelines make it possible for the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District to offer these meals in three price categories.

- The first price category is the **full paid** category. The price of a full paid breakfast is \$1.00, and the price of a full paid lunch is \$2.75.
- The second category is the **reduced price meal** category. The cost of a reduced price breakfast meal is 30¢. The price for the reduced price lunch meal is 40¢.
- The last category includes the **free breakfast and lunch meals** offered at no charge to the family.

How does a family qualify for assistance? On the first day of school of each new school year, students are sent home with a Free and Reduced Lunch Application. The Food Service Department requests that parents or guardians complete these forms and return the completed forms to their child's school inside a sealed envelope addressed to: School Lunch.

The completed applications are entered in the Point of Sale computer system. This system is updated yearly with the DESE's Income Guidelines. After the applications are entered, the Food Service Department mails a Notification Letter to every household submitting an application. The Notification letter includes information regarding each family's payment status and costs for breakfast and lunch.

Any students of families that are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or as applicable, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR); or

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) if the State program meets the statutory requirements. No application is required for free meal benefits for these households.

All children in these households are eligible for free meal benefits. If any children were not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the LEAS or the Food Service Director to have meal benefits extended to the child.

When known to the LEA, households will be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals if the individual child is Other Source Categorically Eligible because the child is Categorized as:

- A. Homeless, migrant or runaway as defined by law; or
- B. Enrolled in an eligible head Start, Even Start or pre-kindergarten class as defined by law.

For any child not listed on the eligibility notice, the households should contact the LEA or Food Service Director about any child also eligible under one of these programs or should submit an income application for other children.

If households/children receive benefits, under Assistance Programs or other source programs are not notified by the school of their free meal benefits, the parent/guardian should contact the Food Service Director.

Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact the LEA or Food Service Director if it chooses to decline the free meal benefits.

Every family can apply at any time during the school year and can apply more than one time during the school year. There is no limit on how many times a family can apply nor is there a deadline on when a family can apply. This program is completely confidential.

Please contact the Food Service Director, Maureen MacKenzie, for details. The contact information is listed on the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District's web page at [www.whrsd.org](http://www.whrsd.org)