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New School Year = New Meal Application

More Students than Ever are Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Meals

Recover. Redesign. Restart. School nutrition is ready for schools to open. Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. James Lane, announced today that school meal applications are needed for the 2020-2021 school year.

When schools closed in March 2020, school nutrition programs throughout Virginia quickly responded to the need to keep students nourished throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. School divisions across the Commonwealth immediately shifted to creative methods of providing meals to all students. Virginia school nutrition heroes served 28,888,138 million meals to students during school closures between March and July 2020.

New school year, new meal application. The allowance for free summer meals for all expires when schools are back in session. For the first thirty days of school, students will use their current meal benefits status from school year 2019-2020: free, reduced-price, or full price. A new meal application must be completed if you have not already been notified that your student is approved for free meals.

To participate in free or reduced-price meals, a new application must be completed each school year. School meal eligibility is determined at the division level by households completing the meal application. Students can be certified for free or reduced-price meals based on household income. It is important to submit a completed meal application as soon as possible to prevent a lapse in free or reduced-price meal coverage. All students without an approved meal application or prior notice of free eligibility will be charged the full price for school meals.

If you believe your household may qualify for free or reduced-price meals, please complete a meal application. Do not submit an application if you have already been notified that your student is approved for free meals.

* Only one application is needed for each household.
* Applications are available online through your local school division website. Contact your school for additional assistance.
* If you have already been notified that your student is free or if your school offers free meals to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), no further action is needed.

Meals are available to all enrolled students including those learning in-person or virtually.

Follow your local school division website or social media for information regarding meal distribution and pricing.

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