**2020-2021 Massachusetts Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals**

## If you have received a **Notice of Direct Certification** – **FREE** from the school district for free meals, **do not** complete this application. If you have received a **Notice of Direct Certification** – **REDUCED PRICE** from the school district for reduced price meals, this application may be submitted**. DO** let the school know if any children in the household are not listed on the **Notice of Direct Certification** – **FREE** letter you received.

**STEP 1**

**List ALL Household Members who are infants, children, and students up to and including grade 12 (if more spaces are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper)**

Definition of **Household Member**: “Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related.” Children in **Foster care** and children who meet the definition of **Homeless**, **Migrant** or **Runaway** are eligible for free meals. Read ***How to Apply for Free and Reduced Price School Meals*** for more information.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Child’s First Name** |  | **MI** |  | **Child’s Last Name** |  | **School Name** | Grade | **Student?***Circle Yes or No* | **Foster**  | **Homeless** | **Migrant** | **Runaway** |
| *Check all that apply* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Y N | 🞏 | 🞏 | 🞏 | 🞏 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Y N | 🞏 | 🞏 | 🞏 | 🞏 |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Y N | 🞏 | 🞏 | 🞏 | 🞏 |
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**STEP 2**

**Do any Household Members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR?**

Write the ***Agency ID Number***, then go to **STEP 4** (Do not complete STEP 3) ***EBT number not accepted; SNAP award letter may be requested***

**Agency ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Review the charts titled “**Sources of Income**” for more information. The “**Sources of Income for Children**” chart will help you with the Child Income section.

**STEP 3**

**Report Income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered ‘Yes’ to STEP 2)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Child Income | How often? |
| Weekly | Bi-Weekly | 2x Month | Monthly |
| **$** |  |  |  | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ | ⭘ |

The “**Sources of Income for Adults**” chart will help you with the All Adult Household Members section

### A. Child Income

Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Please include the TOTAL income received by all Household Members listed in STEP 1 here:

### B. All Adult Household Members (including yourself)

### List all Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total gross income (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write ‘0’. If you enter ‘0’ or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Public Assistance/ Child Support/ Alimony

Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income

|  |
| --- |
| How often? |
| Weekly | Bi-Weekly | 2x Month | Monthly |

|  |
| --- |
| How often? |
| Weekly | Bi-Weekly | 2x Month | Monthly |

|  |
| --- |
| How often? |
| Weekly | Bi-Weekly | 2x Month | Monthly |

Earnings from Work

*Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)*

**Total Household Members (Children and Adults)**

**Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of**

**XXX-XX-**

**Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Household Member Check if no SSN**

**STEP 4**

**Contact Information and Adult Signature Mail Completed Form To: Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, 80 Locust Street, Northampton, MA 0106**

“I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal beneﬁts, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws.”

#

Street Address (if available) Apt # City State Zip Daytime Phone and Email (optional)

#

**Error prone **

Printed name of adult signing the form Signature of adult Today’s date

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**Sources of Income**

|  |
| --- |
| **Sources of Income for Adults** |
| **Earnings from Work** | **Public Assistance / Alimony / Child Support** | **Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income** |
| * Salary, wages, cash bonuses
* Net income from self- employment (farm or business)

If you are in the U.S. Military:* Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA, or privatized housing allowances)
* Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing
 | * Unemployment beneﬁts
* Worker’s compensation
* Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
* Cash assistance from State or local government
* Alimony payments
* Child support payments
* Veteran’s beneﬁts
* Strike beneﬁts
 | * Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung beneﬁts)
* Private pensions or disability benefits
* Regular income from trusts or estates
* Annuities
* Investment income
* Earned interest
* Rental income
* Regular cash payments from outside household
 |

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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.

|  |
| --- |
| **Sources of Income for Children** |
| **Sources of Child Income** | **Example(s)** |
| - Earnings from work | - A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages |
| * Social Security
	+ Disability Payments
	+ Survivor’s Beneﬁts
 | * A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security beneﬁts
* A Parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security beneﬁts
 |
| -Income from person outside the household | - A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money |
| -Income from any other source | - A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust |
| ***Ethnicity (check one):*** | ***Race (check one or more):*** |
| **🞏** Hispanic or Latino | **🞏** American Indian or Alaskan Native | **🞏** Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander |
| **🞏** Not Hispanic or Latino | **🞏** Asian | **🞏** White |
|  | **🞏** Black or African American |  |

**OPTIONAL**

**Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities**

The **Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act** requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identiﬁer for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine beneﬁts for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for beneﬁts. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To ﬁle a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\_ﬁling\_cust.html,](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_%EF%AC%81ling_cust.html) and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

1. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
2. email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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**For School Use Only**

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## **Total Income Household Size**

**Annual Income Conversion:**

*Weekly* x **52**
*Every 2 Weeks* x **26**
*Twice A Month* x **24**
*Monthly* x **12**

**Eligibility: Categorical Eligibility**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Free | Reduced | Denied |
|  |

## *Only annualize income if there are multiple pay frequencies*

|  |
| --- |
| How often? |
| Weekly | Bi-Weekly | 2x Month | Monthly | Annually |
|  | ⭘ |

**Determining Official’s Signature**

**Date**

**Conﬁrming Official’s Signature**

**Date**

**Verifying Official’s Signature**

**Date**