

## FISCAL YEAR 2012 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

The United States Department of Agriculture has issued the following income guidelines for the period July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012:

Household Size	Free Meals 130% Federal Poverty Guideline					Household Size	Reduced-Price Meals 185% Federal Poverty Guideline				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly		Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	14,157	1,180	590	545	273	1	20,147	1,679	840	775	388
2	19,123	1,594	797	736	368	2	27,214	2,268	1,134	1,047	524
3	24,089	2,008	1,004	927	464	3	34,281	2,857	1,429	1,319	660
4	29,055	2,422	1,211	1,118	559	4	41,348	3,446	1,723	1,591	796
5	34,021	2,836	1,418	1,309	655	5	48,415	4,035	2,018	1,863	932
6	38,987	3,249	1,625	1,500	750	6	55,482	4,624	2,312	2,134	1,067
7	43,953	3,663	1,832	1,691	846	7	62,549	5,213	2,607	2,406	1,203
8	48,919	4,077	2,039	1,882	941	8	69,616	5,802	2,901	2,678	1,339
For each additional family member, add	4,966	414	207	191	96	For each additional family member, add	7,067	589	295	272	136

The following is the definition of income:

Income is defined as any monies earned before any deductions such as income taxes, social security taxes, insurance premiums, charitable contributions, and bonds. It includes the following: (1) monetary compensation for services including wages, salary, commissions, or fees; (2) net income from non-farm self-employment; (3) net income from farm self-employment; (4) social security; (5) dividends or interest on savings or bonds or income from estates or trusts; (6) net rental income; (7) public assistance or welfare payments; (8) unemployment compensation; (9) government civilian employee or military retirement or pensions or veteran payments; (10) private pensions or annuities; (11) alimony or child support payments; (12) regular contributions from persons not living in the household; (13) net royalties; and (14) other cash income. Other cash income would include cash amounts received or withdrawn from any source including savings, investments, trust accounts, and other resources which would be available to pay the price of a child's meal.

# Board of Education, School District #95

3524 Maple Avenue

Brookfield, IL 60513

Phone: 708-485-0606

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Brook Park School.....708-354-3740

S.E. Gross Middle School....708-485-0600

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## WHAT YOU NEED TO SEND US

1. If you are on Food Stamps or TANF, you should be Direct Certified by the State. You DO NOT need to complete the waiver application.
2. If your child is a Foster Child:  
Send us official documentation from the agency sponsoring the child.
3. If you do not get Food Stamps or TANF for your child(ren):
  - A. Write the name and Social Security Number of each adult household member below.
  - B. Send this page along with papers that show the amount of money your household got last month from each source.

The papers you send must show the name of the person who received the income, the date it was received, how much was received, and how often it was received.

Acceptable papers include:

**Jobs:** Current paycheck stub and pay envelope that shows how often pay is received; letter from employer stating gross wages and how often they are paid; or business or farming papers, such as ledger or tax books.

**Social Security, Pensions or Retirement:** Social Security retirement letter, statement of benefits received or pension award notice.

**Unemployment, Disability or Worker's Comp:** Notice of eligibility from State Employment Security Office, check stub, or letter from Worker's Comp.

**Welfare Payments:** Benefit letter from Welfare Agency.

**Child Support or Alimony:** Court decree, agreement or copies of checks received.

**Other Income (such as rental income):** Information that shows the amount of income received, how often it is received and the date.

**No income:** A brief note explaining how you provide food, clothing and housing for your household and when you expect an income.

Name	Social Security Number of Adult Household Members	No Social Security Number (see Privacy Act Statement, Page 1)
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_____	_____	
_____	_____	
_____	_____	
_____	_____	
_____	_____	

Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

**Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines (Effective from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012)**

**Reduced-Price Meals (185% Federal Poverty Guideline)**

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	20,147	1,679	840	775	388
2	27,214	2,268	1,134	1,047	524
3	34,281	2,857	1,429	1,319	660
4	41,348	3,446	1,723	1,591	796
5	48,415	4,035	2,018	1,863	932
6	55,482	4,624	2,312	2,134	1,067
7	62,549	5,213	2,607	2,406	1,203
8	69,616	5,802	2,901	2,678	1,339
For each additional family member, add	7,067	589	295	272	136

1. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. Use one Household Eligibility Application for all students in your household per district. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to the school.
2. WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS? All children in households receiving benefits from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and/or are foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant also qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please contact your school to see if your child(ren) qualifies.
3. WHO CAN GET REDUCED PRICE MEALS? Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Eligibility Income Chart, shown above.
4. A MEMBER OF MY HOUSEHOLD RECEIVED SNAP OR TANF BENEFITS. THE SCHOOL SENT A LETTER STATING THAT MY CHILD IS AUTOMATICALLY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS BASED ON DIRECT CERTIFICATION. DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING MORE TO ENSURE THAT MY CHILD RECEIVES FREE MEALS? No. You do not need to do anything more to receive free meals for your child. If you have students not listed on the letter, contact the school immediately. If you do not wish to receive the free meals, you should follow the steps outlined in the letter from the school to notify school personnel immediately.
5. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
6. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out the enclosed application.
7. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof.
8. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
9. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to the person listed above.
10. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
11. WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD? You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.

12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
13. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS INCOME? If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
14. MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS HER COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment and it wasn't received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
15. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for SNAP, TANF or other assistance benefits, contact your local Department of Human Services office or call (800) 843-6154 (voice) or (800) 447-6404 (TTY).



**INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING – COMPLETE ONE APPLICATION PER HOUSEHOLD PER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES SNAP OR TANF BENEFITS, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR SCHOOL:**

**Part 1:** List all household members, school and grade for each student, and a SNAP or TANF case number for any household member including adults receiving such benefits. (Attach another sheet of paper if necessary.) .

**Part 2:** Skip this part.

**Part 3:** Skip this part.

**Part 4:** Sign the form. (The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.)

**Part 5, 6, 7:** Contact Information, Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities, and *All Kids* Information: Answer these questions if you choose to. (Optional)

**IF NO ONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD GETS SNAP OR TANF BENEFITS AND IF ANY CHILD IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS HOMELESS, A MIGRANT OR RUNAWAY OR HEAD START/EVEN START, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTION AND RETURN THE COMPLETE FORM TO YOUR SCHOOL:**

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

**Part 2:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call your school.

**Part 3:** Complete only if a child in your household isn't eligible under Part 2. See instructions for All Other Households.

**Part 4:** Sign the form. Only if part 3 is completed, please include the last four digits of a Social Security Number. (or mark the box if s/he doesn't have one).

**Part 5, 6, 7:** Contact Information, Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities, and *All Kids* Information: Answer these questions if you choose to. (Optional)

**IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A FOSTER CHILD, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR SCHOOL:**

If all children in the household are foster children that are the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court:

**Part 1:** List all foster children and the school name for each child. Check the "Foster Child" box for each foster child.

**Part 2:** Skip this part.

**Part 3:** Skip this part.

**Part 4:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.

**Part 5, 6, 7:** Contact Information, Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities, and *All Kids* Information: Answer these questions if you choose to. (Optional)

If some of the children in the household are foster children are foster children that are the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court:

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

**Part 2:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call your school.

**Part 3:** 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. You must tell us how often the money is received—weekly, every other week, twice a month or monthly. For earnings, be sure to list the gross income, not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned before taxes and other deductions. You should be able to find it on your pay stub or your boss can tell you. For other income, list the amount each person got for the month 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, under Earnings from Work, report income after expenses. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

**Part 4:** Adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (or mark the box if s/he doesn't have one).

**Part 5, 6, 7:** Contact Information, Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities, and *All Kids* Information: Answer these questions if you choose to. (Optional)

**ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS INCLUDING WIC HOUSEHOLDS, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:**

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

**Part 2:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call your school.

**Part 3:** 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. You must tell us how often the money is received—weekly, every other week, twice a month or monthly. For earnings, be sure to list the gross income, not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned before taxes and other deductions. You should be able to find it on your pay stub or your boss can tell you. For other income, list the amount each person got for the month 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, under Earnings from Work, report income after expenses. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC or Federal education benefits. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

**Part 4:** Adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (or mark the box if s/he doesn't have one).

**Part 5, 6, 7:** Contact Information, Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities, and *All Kids* Information: Answer these questions if you choose to. (Optional)

Privacy Act Statement: **This explains how we will use the information you give us.** 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, and determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

Non-discrimination Statement: **This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.** "In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."