

# NISD Child Nutrition

## Free & Reduced-Price Meal Applications

### For School Year 2025-2026

Children need healthy meals to learn and Northside ISD offers healthy meals every school day. Free & Reduced Meal Benefits are available to families that qualify. Applications must be completed and approved annually for meal benefits.

**NOTE:** Families that have children attending CEP Campuses **DO NOT** need to fill out a Free & Reduced-Price Meal Application. For a list of CEP campuses click [here](#).

*ATENCIÓN: Para información sobre la solicitud de comidas gratis o a precios reducidos, llame a la oficina de servicio (210) 397-4517 o envía por correo a [free-reduced@nisd.net](mailto:free-reduced@nisd.net).*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Who can receive free or reduced-price meals?

- All children in households receiving benefits from SNAP, FDPIR, or TANF, are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start or Early Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children attending CEP campuses receive meals at no cost.
- Children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or below the federal limits.

### 2. How can I obtain a Free & Reduced-Price Meal application?

Applications are available for parent or guardian pickup beginning July 1st at the Free & Reduced Office at 7520 Mainland Drive, San Antonio, TX 78250. Hours are 7 AM to 3:30 PM (Monday – Friday). Applications may be turned in at the Free & Reduced Office, left at the courtesy drop box or mailed to this address. Applications will be available at non-CEP campuses beginning in August.

*Free & Reduced-Price Meal Applications are available in other languages upon request.*

### 3. Can I apply online? Save Time...Apply Online!

Yes, and highly encouraged! Free and Reduced-Price Meal applications will be available online at <https://www.schoolcafe.com/NORTHSIDE> beginning **July 28th**. You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit <https://schoolcafe.com/NORTHSIDE> or contact Child Nutrition at (210) 397-4517 if you have any questions about the online application.

4. Do I need to fill out an application for each child?

No. You only need to submit one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in Northside ISD. The application must be filled out completely in order to determine if your child is certified for free or reduced-price school meals. An incomplete application cannot be approved.

5. Will the information I provide be verified?

Yes. Your eligibility may be verified at any time during the school year. School officials may ask you to send written evidence which shows that your child(ren) qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. The information you provide will be used to decide if your child(ren) is/are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

6. When should I submit a Free & Reduced-Price Meal application?

You may submit a Free & Reduced-Price Meal application at any time during the school year. If you are not eligible now but experience a decrease in household income, an increase in household size, become unemployed or receive food stamps or TANF, you may complete an application at that time. Households interested in this benefit must apply for the program every school year.

7. My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out a new one?

Yes, a new application must be completed each year to determine eligibility. If you do not have a current application on file, meal benefits from the previous school year will expire on the 31st day after the first day of school, which means that students will be charged full price for school meals beginning September 23rd, 2025.

8. What if I received a letter stating that my child is directly certified?

If you received a notification letter that a child is directly certified for free or reduced-price meals, do not complete an application. Let Child Nutrition know if any children in the household attending school are not listed in the letter.

9. How long does it take to process an application?

The application may take up to 10 working days to be processed once it reaches the Free & Reduced office. After the process is complete, you should receive a notification letter by mail. If you do not receive a letter, you may contact the Free & Reduced office at (210) 397-4517.

10. What is the cost of a school meal?

Breakfast costs \$1.00; Lunch Costs \$2.35 for secondary (High School and Jr. High School) and \$2.10 for elementary level. There is no cost for breakfast or lunch for students who qualify for reduced-price meals at all grade levels.

11. Who can I contact if I have questions about the Free and Reduced-Price meal application?

You may contact the Child Nutrition Free & Reduced office at (210) 397-4517 or [free-reduced@nisd.net](mailto:free-reduced@nisd.net).

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*