

HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Please use the instructions located on the back of the meal application to help you fill out the application for free or reduced price school meals. You only need to submit **one** application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in the San Mateo-Foster City School District. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced price school meals.

In addition to the instruction on the back of the meal application, please follow these helpful tips in order to assist in the proper completion of your meal application! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact **Child Nutrition Services at (650) 312-1968**.

PLEASE USE A PEN (NOT A PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY.

STEP 1: LIST ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHO ARE STUDENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING GRADE 8

Please list all school students who live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here?

When filling out this section, please include **all** students in your household who are:

- Students attending the San Mateo-Foster City School District and supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;

STEP 2: DO ANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS (INCLUDING YOU) CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: SNAP, CALFRESH, CALWORKS, OR FDPIR?

If anyone in your household participates in the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or CalFresh
- The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids (CalWORKs)
- The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

A) IF NO ONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATES IN ANY OF THE ABOVE LISTED PROGRAMS:

- *Skip to STEP 3 on these instructions and STEP 3 on your application.*

B) IF ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATES IN ANY OF THE ABOVE LISTED PROGRAMS:

- **Provide a case number for SNAP, CalFresh, CalWORKS, or FDPIR.** You only need to write **one** case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact: **County of San Mateo Human Services (800) 223-8383. You must provide a valid case number on your application.**
- **Skip to STEP 4.**

STEP 3: REPORT INCOME FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

A) Report all income earned by students. Refer to the chart titled “Sources of Income for Students/Children” in these instructions and report the combined gross income for **ALL** students listed in Step 1 in your household in the box marked “Total Student Income.” Only count foster children’s income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household. It is optional for the household to list foster children living with them as part of the household.

What is Student/Child Income?

Student/Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid **directly** to your students/children. Many households do not have any student/child income. Use the chart below to determine if your household has child income to report.

Sources of Income for Children	
Sources of Child Income	Example(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earnings from work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A child has a job where they earn a salary or wages.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability Payments Survivor’s Benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income from persons <i>outside</i> the household 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A friend or extended family member <i>regularly</i> gives a child spending money.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income from any other source 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A child receives income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust.

FOR EACH ADULT HOUSEHOLD MEMBER:

Who should I list here?

When filling out this section, please include **all** members in your household who are:

- Living with you and share income and expenses, *even if not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.*
- Any children **not** enrolled in San Mateo Foster-City School District but in your household.

Do **not** include people who:

- Live with you but are not supported by your household's income **and** do not contribute income to your household.
- Students already listed in Step 1

How do I fill in the income amount and source?

FOR EACH TYPE OF INCOME:

- Use the charts in this section to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in **gross income** ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
 - Gross income is the total income received before taxes or deductions.
 - Many people think of income as the amount they “take home” and not the total, “gross” amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.
- Write a “0” in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will be counted as zeroes. If you write ‘0’ or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials have known or available information that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be verified for cause.
- Mark (fill in the circle) how often each type of income is received using the bubble check boxes to the right of each field.

B) List Adult Household member's name. Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked “Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last).” **Do not list any students you listed in STEP 1.** If a child **not** enrolled in San Mateo-Foster City School District has income, include their income here.

C) Report earnings from work. Refer to the chart titled “Sources of Income for Adults” in these instructions and report all income from work in the “Earnings from Work” field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income.

What if I am self-employed?

If you are self-employed, report income from that work as a **net** amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.

D) Report income from Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony. Refer to the chart titled “Sources of Income for Adults” in these instructions and report all income that applies in the “Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony” field on the application. Do not report the value of any cash value public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only **court-ordered** payments should be reported here. Informal but regular payments should be reported as “other” income in the next part.

E) Report income from Pensions/Retirement/All other income. Refer to the chart titled “Sources of Income for Adults” in these instructions and report all income that applies in the “Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income” field on the application.

F) Report total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field “Total Household Members (Students, Children and Adults).” This number **MUST** be equal to the number of household members listed in STEP 1 and STEP 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household determines your income cutoff for free and reduced price meals.

G) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. The household’s primary wage earner or another adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. **You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number.** If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box labeled “Check if no SSN.”

Sources of Income for Adults		
Earnings from Work	Public Assistance/Alimony/Child Support	Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salary, wages, cash bonuses Net income from self-employment (farm or business) Strike benefits <p>If you are in the U.S. Military:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic pay and cash bonuses (<i>do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances</i>) Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment benefits Worker’s compensation Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance from State or local government Alimony payments Child support payments Veteran’s benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) Private Pensions or disability Income from trusts or estates Annuities Investment income Earned interest Rental income <i>Regular</i> cash payments from outside household

STEP 4: CONTACT INFORMATION AND ADULT SIGNATURE

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. **Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.**

A) Provide your contact information. Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. **If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced price school meals.** Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.

B) Sign and print your name. Print your name in the boxes to the left of the signature box. And sign your name in the box “Signature of adult completing the form.”

C) Write Today’s Date. In the space provided, write today’s date in the box next to your signature.

D) Share children’s Racial and Ethnic Identities (optional). On the bottom of the application, we ask you to share information about your children’s race and ethnicity. **This field is optional and does not affect your children’s eligibility for free or reduced price school meals.**