

# Blackstone-Millville Regional School District

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Blackstone-Millville Regional School District** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.50; lunch costs \$2.75 at the elementary schools, \$3.00 at the middle school, and \$3.25 at the high school. **Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals.** Reduced price is \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from **MA SNAP, MA TAFDC, FDPIR, or specific categories of Medicaid** 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 program are eligible for free meals.**
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- 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 limits on this chart.

<b>FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2019-2020</b>			
<b>Household size</b>	<b>Yearly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
1	\$23,107	\$1,926	\$445
2	31,284	2,607	602
3	39,461	3,289	759
4	47,638	3,970	917
5	55,815	4,652	1,074
6	63,992	5,333	1,231
7	72,169	6,015	1,388
8	80,346	6,696	1,546
Each additional person:	+8,177	+682	+158

### HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY?

Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail the administrative office at your child(ren)'s school(s).

### DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?

No. Use *one Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application for all students in your household.* We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: BMRSD School Nutrition Office, 35 Federal St, Blackstone, MA 01504, 508-876-0193 x4.

### SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?

No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact the School Nutrition Office, 35 Federal St, Blackstone, MA 01504, 508-876-0193 x4, lrayos@bmrds.net immediately.

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## MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW 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.

## I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?

Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please send in a completed application.

## WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?

Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.

## 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.

## 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: Maureen Gonsalves, 35 Federal St, Blackstone, MA 01504, 508-876-0193 x4, mgonsalves@bmrtd.net.

## MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?

Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced-price meals.

## 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.

## WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT?

Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.

## WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY?

Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.

## WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY?

List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your application. Contact the School Nutrition Office, 35 Federal St, Blackstone, MA 01504, 508-876-0193 x4, lrayos@bmrtd.net to receive a second application.

## MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?

To find out how to apply for **MA SNAP** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **the MA SNAP Hotline at 1-866-950-3663**.

If you have other questions or need help, call **508-876-0193 x4**.

# Blackstone-Millville Regional School District

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Sincerely,

*Maureen Gonsalves*

Maureen Gonsalves, Director of School Nutrition

July 1, 2019

*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 submit all needed information, 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 primary wage earner or other adult household member who signs the application. 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.*

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**Non-Discrimination Statement:** This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

"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, audiotope, 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_filing_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;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

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## I Speak Statements

- أنا أتكلم اللغة العربية. (Arabic)
- Ես խոսում եմ հայերեն (Armenian)
- 我说中文 (Chinese Simplified)
- 我說中文 (Chinese Traditional)
- Ja govorim **hrvatski**. (Croatian)
- اینجانب به زبان **فارسی** صحبت می کنم. (Farsi)
- Je parle **français**. (French)
- Μιλώ **ελληνικά**. (Greek)
- હું **ગુજરાતી** બોલું છું (Gujarati)
- Mwen pale **Kreyòl**. (Haitian Creole)
- मैं **हिंदी** बोलता हूँ (Hindi)
- Kuv hais **lus hmoob**. (Hmong)
- 私は **日本語** を話します。 (Japanese)
- ខ្ញុំនិយាយភាសា**ខ្មែរ** (Khmer)
- 본인의 모국어는 **한국어**입니다. (Korean)
- ئە ز زمانى **كوردى** ده ناخفم. (Kurdish)
- ຂ້າພະເຈົ້າເວົ້າ **ພາສາລາວ**. (Lao)
- Yie gorngv **Mienh** waac. (Mien)
- Mówię **po polsku**. (Polish)
- Eu falo **Portugês**. (Portuguese)
- ਦਿ ਸ੍ਰੋਆਕ **ਪੰਜਾਬੀ** (Punjabi)
- Я говорю **по-русски**. (Russian)
- Ou te tautala **faaSamoa**. (Samoan)
- Govorim **srpski**. (Serbian)
- Waxaan ku hadlaa **Somali**. (Somali)
- Yo hablo **español**. (Spanish)
- أنا تحدث **السودانية** (لغوي سوداني) (Sudanese)
- Marunong po akong magsalita ng **Tagalog**. (Tagalog)
- ข้าพเจ้าพูด **ภาษาไทย** (Thai)
- ኣነ **ትግርኛ** ይዘረብ ኣየ. (Tigrinya)
- Я розмовляю **українською**. (Ukrainian)
- میں **اردو** بولتا/بولتی ہوں . (Urdu)
- Tôi nói tiếng **Việt**. (Vietnamese)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Sharing Information with Medicaid/CHIP

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

If your children get free or reduced-price school meals, they may also be able to get free or low-cost health insurance through Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Children with health insurance are more likely to get regular health care and are less likely to miss school because of sickness.

Because health insurance is so important to children's well-being, *the law allows us to tell Medicaid and CHIP that your children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, unless you tell us not to.* Medicaid and CHIP only use the information to identify children who may be eligible for their programs. Program officials may contact you to offer to enroll your children. Filling out the Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application does not automatically enroll your children in health insurance.

If you do not want us to share your information with Medicaid or CHIP, fill out the form below and send in.

(Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced-price meals).

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**No! I DO NOT** want information from my Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application shared with Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

If you checked no, fill out the form below to ensure that your information is NOT shared for the child(ren) listed below:

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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For more information, you may call the **BMRSD School Nutrition Office** at **508-876-0193 x4** or e-mail: [lrayos@bmrzd.net](mailto:lrayos@bmrzd.net).  
Return this form to: **35 Federal St, Blackstone, MA 01504** by **October 1, 2019**.

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## Sharing Information with OTHER PROGRAMS

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

To save you time and effort, the information you gave on your Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application may be shared with other programs for which **your children may qualify for reduced fees/additional assistance**. For the following programs, we must have your permission to share your information. Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced-price meals.

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- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application with **Athletics**.
- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application with **Transportation**.
- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application with **Guidance/Administration**.

If you checked yes to any or all of the boxes above, fill out the form below to ensure that your information is shared for the child(ren) listed below. Your information will be shared only with the programs you checked.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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For more information, you may call **the BMRSD School Nutrition Office** at **508-876-0193 x4** or e-mail: **lrayos@bmrzd.net**.  
Return this form to: **35 Federal St, Blackstone, MA 01504** by **October 1, 2019**.