

# PINE-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Pine-Richland School District** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **\$1.00 for elementary and secondary**; lunch costs **\$2.10 for secondary (7-12) and \$1.90 for elementary (K-6)**. **Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals.** Reduced price is **\$.30** for breakfast and **\$.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.

If you have received a **NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION** for free meals, **do not** complete the application. But **do** let the school know if any children in your household are not listed on the **Notice of Direct Certification** letter you received.

## 1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly Food Stamps or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits 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.

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

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$21,775	\$1,815	\$419
2	\$29,471	\$2,456	\$567
3	\$37,167	\$3,098	\$715
4	\$44,863	\$3,739	\$863
5	\$52,559	\$4,380	\$1,011
6	\$60,255	\$5,022	\$1,159
7	\$67,951	\$5,663	\$1,307
8	\$75,647	\$6,304	\$1,455
Each additional person:	\$7,696	\$642	\$148

2. 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 **Carolyn Welshonce at 724-443-1450 x 7807 or cwelshonce@pinerichland.org**
3. 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: Pine-Richland School District; c/o Rachel McCarthy, 702 Warrendale Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044; email: [rmccarthy@pinerichland.org](mailto:rmccarthy@pinerichland.org) or fax 724-625-1490.
4. 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 Rachel McCarthy, 702 Warrendale Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044; email: [rmccarthy@pinerichland.org](mailto:rmccarthy@pinerichland.org) or phone 724-625-7773 x 6300 immediately.

5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! 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 [www.pinerichland.org](http://www.pinerichland.org) or Visit the Department of Human Services website at [compass.state.pa.gov](http://compass.state.pa.gov).
6. 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.
7. 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 an application.
8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
9. 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.
10. 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: **Pine-Richland School District; c/o Dana Siford; 702 Warrendale Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044; email: [dsiford@pinerichland.org](mailto:dsiford@pinerichland.org); phone: 724-625-7773 x 6303**
11. 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.
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. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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 Rachel McCarthy, 702 Warrendale Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044; email: [rmccarthy@pinerichland.org](mailto:rmccarthy@pinerichland.org) or phone 724-625-7773 x 6300 to receive a second application.
16. 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 assistance office or call 1-800-692-7462.

If you have other questions or need help, call **724-625-7773 x 6300**.

Sincerely,

*Rachel McCarthy*

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Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

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**2015-2016 Pennsylvania Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Special Milk Program Household Application**

Apply online at <https://www.paschoolmeals.com>

Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

**STEP 1 — All Children in School in the Household**

Student ID	Last Name	First Name	MI	Date of Birth	Grade	F	H	M	R	HS
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

F = Foster, H = Homeless, R = Runaway, M = Migrant, and HS = Head Start

**STEP 2 — Assistance Programs**

Do any household members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following assistance programs: SNAP or TANF? Circle one: Yes / No

If you answered NO > Complete STEP 3. If you answered YES > Write the case number then skip to STEP 4.

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 3 — All Household Member Income** (Skip this step if you answered "Yes" in STEP 2)

List all household members (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each household member listed, report total income for each source in whole dollars only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you write '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Household Member Name (First and Last)	Gross income and how often it is received: W = Weekly, E = Every 2 weeks, T = Twice per month, M = Monthly					
	Earnings from Work	How Often?	Public Assistance / Child Support / Alimony	How Often?	Pensions / Retirement / All Other Income	How Often?

Total Household Size (Children and Adults) \_\_\_\_\_ Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of Primary Wage Earner or Another Adult Household Member \*\*\* - \*\* - \_\_\_\_\_ Check if no SSN

**STEP 4 — Contact Information and Adult Signature**

"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."

Printed name of adult completing the form \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of adult completing the form \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address (if available) \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**OPTIONAL — Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities**

Ethnicity (check one):  Hispanic or Latino  Not Hispanic or Latino

Race (check one or more):  American Indian or Alaskan Native  Black or African American  Asian  Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  White

