

2023-2024

Michigan lawmakers approved the state's fiscal year 2024 budget, which includes funding for universal free meals for students at school. This is great news for all of us. While breakfast and lunch will be free for all students, secondary students have the opportunity to **purchase** a la carte items additionally.

Free/Reduced Information

Please take a moment to complete the form <https://lowell.familyportal.cloud/> . The Application for Summer EBT and Education Benefits with the Michigan School Meals Program collects information needed to ensure the school receives state and federal funding for education programs. **Without this information, Lowell Area Schools could lose important state funding for educational programs that our students are entitled to.** These supplemental grants and programs have the potential to offer supports and services for our students including, but not limited to:

- Instructional staff (ex. Reading Interventionists, Math Tutors, Academic & Behavior Aids)
- Teaching supplies and materials
- Counselors and Social Workers
- School Nurses
- Professional Learning for staff
- Parent and Community engagement supplies and activities
- Technology

Income Eligibility Guidelines 2023-2024

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES											
Effective from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024											
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES	REDUCED PRICE MEALS - 185 %					FREE MEALS - 130 %				
	ANNUAL	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY
48 CONTIGUOUS STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM, AND TERRITORIES											
1	14,580	26,973	2,248	1,124	1,038	519	18,954	1,580	790	729	365
2	19,720	36,482	3,041	1,521	1,404	702	25,636	2,137	1,069	986	493
3	24,860	45,991	3,833	1,917	1,769	885	32,318	2,694	1,347	1,243	622
4	30,000	55,500	4,625	2,313	2,135	1,068	39,000	3,250	1,625	1,500	750
5	35,140	65,009	5,418	2,709	2,501	1,251	45,682	3,807	1,904	1,757	879
6	40,280	74,518	6,210	3,105	2,867	1,434	52,364	4,364	2,182	2,014	1,007
7	45,420	84,027	7,003	3,502	3,232	1,616	59,046	4,921	2,461	2,271	1,136
8	50,560	93,536	7,795	3,898	3,598	1,799	65,728	5,478	2,739	2,526	1,264
for each add'l family member, add	5,140	9,509	793	397	366	183	6,682	557	279	257	129

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 Dan VanderMuelen dvandermeulen@lowellschools.com 987-2510

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: Lowell Area Schools

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 received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Brad Stinson 616-987-2964 or bstinson@lowellschools.com immediately.

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: Sonia Hodge, District CFO, shodge@lowellschools.com 987-2504

MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for Food Assistance Program (FAP) or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office https://newmibridges.michigan.gov/s/isd-partnershiplanding?language=en_US.

If you have other questions or need help, call 616-987-2964,

Brad Stinson Director of Dining Services