

Stoughton Public Schools – Nutrition Department

PUBLIC RELEASE

The Stoughton Public Schools is happy to announce its policy for determining free meals and reduced price meals served under the National School Lunch Program. Free and Reduced Meal Benefits are available to qualifying families. Applications for Free and Reduced Price Meals are available on the school web site at

<https://www.stoughtonschools.org/district/food-services> as well as in the main office at any of the schools. You may apply for Free and Reduced Price Meals at any time during the school year. Your children may qualify for Free or Reduced Price Meals if your household income falls within the limits on the chart below. **The Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines for July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 are as follows:** <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/03/20/2019-05183/child-nutrition-programs-income-eligibility-guidelines>

n 9(b)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1)(A)).
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INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES												
		Effective from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020										
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	12,490	23,107	1,926	963	889	445	16,237	1,354	677	625	313	
2	16,910	31,284	2,607	1,304	1,204	602	21,983	1,832	916	846	423	
3	21,330	39,461	3,289	1,645	1,518	759	27,729	2,311	1,156	1,067	534	
4	25,750	47,638	3,970	1,985	1,833	917	33,475	2,790	1,395	1,288	644	
5	30,170	55,815	4,652	2,326	2,147	1,074	39,221	3,269	1,635	1,509	755	
6	34,590	63,992	5,333	2,667	2,462	1,231	44,967	3,748	1,874	1,730	865	
7	39,010	72,169	6,015	3,008	2,776	1,388	50,713	4,227	2,114	1,951	976	
8	43,430	80,346	6,696	3,348	3,091	1,546	56,459	4,705	2,353	2,172	1,086	
For each add'l family member, add	4,420	8,177	682	341	315	158	5,746	479	240	221	111	
ALASKA												
1	15,600	28,860	2,405	1,203	1,110	555	20,280	1,690	845	780	390	
2	21,130	39,091	3,258	1,629	1,504	752	27,469	2,290	1,145	1,057	529	
3	26,660	49,321	4,111	2,056	1,897	949	34,658	2,889	1,445	1,333	667	
4	32,190	59,552	4,963	2,482	2,291	1,146	41,847	3,488	1,744	1,610	805	
5	37,720	69,782	5,816	2,908	2,684	1,342	49,036	4,087	2,044	1,886	943	
6	43,250	80,013	6,668	3,334	3,078	1,539	56,225	4,686	2,343	2,163	1,082	
7	48,780	90,243	7,521	3,761	3,471	1,736	63,414	5,285	2,643	2,439	1,220	
8	54,310	100,474	8,373	4,187	3,865	1,933	70,603	5,884	2,942	2,716	1,358	
For each add'l family member, add	5,530	10,231	853	427	394	197	7,189	600	300	277	139	
HAWAII												
1	14,380	26,603	2,217	1,109	1,024	512	18,694	1,558	779	719	360	
2	19,460	36,001	3,001	1,501	1,385	693	25,298	2,109	1,055	973	487	
3	24,540	45,399	3,784	1,892	1,747	874	31,902	2,659	1,330	1,227	614	
4	29,620	54,797	4,567	2,284	2,108	1,054	38,506	3,209	1,605	1,481	741	
5	34,700	64,195	5,350	2,675	2,470	1,235	45,110	3,760	1,880	1,735	868	
6	39,780	73,593	6,133	3,067	2,831	1,416	51,714	4,310	2,155	1,989	995	
7	44,860	82,991	6,916	3,458	3,192	1,596	58,318	4,860	2,430	2,243	1,122	
8	49,940	92,389	7,700	3,850	3,554	1,777	64,922	5,411	2,706	2,497	1,249	
For each add'l family member, add	5,080	9,398	784	392	362	181	6,604	551	276	254	127	

If anyone in your household participates in any of the following assistance programs, your children are eligible for free school meals: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or MA SNAP, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or MA TANF, or The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Households receiving any of these benefits are only required to provide the recipient's name, their Agency ID, TANF or FDPIR number, student name(s) and adult signature when submitting an application.

For up to 30 operating days into the new school year, eligibility from the previous year will continue. When the carry-over period ends, unless the household is notified their children are directly certified* or the household submits an application that is approved, the children must pay full price for school meals.

*No application is required if the district directly certifies a child through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Service's Virtual Gateway as receiving MA SNAP, MA TAFDC, Medicaid or is a foster child. This electronic match process is required by Federal Regulation. (The Virtual Gateway is an internet portal designed by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to provide the general public, medical providers, community-based organizations and EOHHS staff with online access to health and human services). All children in these households are eligible for free meal benefits. If you receive a notice of Direct Certification for your child to receive free school meals and there are other children in your household that are not listed, you may contact The School Nutrition Office at 781.297.1051 to have the benefit extended to them. Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact The School Nutrition Office at 781.297.1051 or submit in writing if they want to *decline* the free meal benefits.

Students who are homeless, migrant, runaway or enrolled in an eligible Head Start or pre-kindergarten class are also eligible for benefits.

If children or households receive benefits under Assistance Programs or Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs and are not notified by the school of their free meal benefits, the parent or guardian should contact The School Nutrition Office at 781.297.1051. You must send a copy of the letter with your agency ID # to our office to verify your status

Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are categorically eligible for free meals. A foster child may be included as a member of foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits. If a foster family is not eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits, it does not prevent the foster child from receiving free meal benefits. Note however, that a foster child's free eligibility does not automatically extend to all students in the household.

Application forms for all other households must list the names of all household members, all household income with the amount, source and frequency of the income received by each household member. An adult signature is required along with the last 4 digits of the adult's Social Security Number or the box checked that applicant does not have a Social Security Number. Completed applications should be submitted to School Nutrition Office, O'Donnell Middle School, 211 Cushing Street, Stoughton, MA. 02072. Under the provisions of the policy for determining eligibility for free and reduced-price meals, the Food Service Director, will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, he/she may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis by calling 781.297.1051. If he/she wishes to make a formal appeal, a request either orally or in writing may be made to: The Office of the Superintendent, Stoughton Public Schools, 831 Pierce Street, Stoughton, MA 02072.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if household size changes at any time, the family can file a new application.