

Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

2011-2012 School Year

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. The Wachusett Regional School District offers healthy meals every school day. Lunch at District elementary and middle schools costs \$2.75. Lunch at Wachusett Regional High School costs \$3.00. Breakfast is available at the high school and costs \$1.50. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is 40¢ for lunch and 30¢ for breakfast.

1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child? No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. 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 your school principal.**

2. Who can get free meals? Children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly the Food Stamp Program), or getting TANF, and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.

3. Who can get reduced price meals? Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Chart, shown on this application.

4. Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price meals? Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school if you have questions.

5. Will the information I give be checked? Yes, we may ask you to send written proof.

6. If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start receiving SNAP or getting TANF or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.

7. 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: Director of Human Resources, Central Office, 1745 Main Street, Jefferson, MA 01522 (508) 829-1670.

8. What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.

9. We are in the military. Do we include our housing allowance as income? If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.

If you have other questions or need help, call your school principal.

Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application
Letter to Households
Page 1 of 2
2011

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

If your household receives benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the Food Stamp Program, or gets TANF, follow these instructions:

Part 1: List child(ren)'s name, school, grade, and a SNAP or TANF case number.

Part 2: Check the appropriate box, if any.

Part 3: Skip this part.

Part 4: Skip this part.

Part 5: Sign the form. A Social Security Number is not necessary.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose to.

**Check the appropriate box and contact [your school, homeless liaison, migrant coordinator].
Fill out application by following instructions for ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS.**

If you are applying for a FOSTER CHILD, follow these instructions:

Part 1: Use a separate application for each foster child. List the child's name, school, and grade.

Part 2: Skip this part.

Part 3: Check the box and list the child's personal use monthly income, if any.

Part 4: Skip this part.

Part 5: Sign the form. A Social Security Number is not necessary.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose to.

ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS, including WIC households, follow these instructions:

Part 1: List each child's name, school, and grade.

Part 2: Check the appropriate box, if any.

Part 3: Skip this part.

Part 4: Follow these instructions to report total household income from last month.

Column 1–Name: List the first and last name of **each** person living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You must include yourself and all children living with you. Attach another sheet of paper if you need to.

Column 2 –Gross income last month and how often it was received. Next to each person's name list each type of income received last month, and how often it was received. For example, *Earnings from work:* List the **gross income** each person earned from work. This is not the same as take-home pay. **Gross income is the amount earned before taxes and other deductions.** The amount should be listed on your pay stub, or your boss can tell you. Next to the amount, write how often the person got it (weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly). *All other income:* List the amount each person got last month from welfare, child support, alimony, (second column) pensions, retirement, Social Security (third column), and ALL OTHER INCOME SOURCES (fourth column). In the All Other column, include Worker's Compensation, unemployment, strike benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), disability benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and ANY OTHER INCOME. Report net income for self-owned business, farm, or rental income. Next to the amount, write how often the person got it. If you are in the Military Housing Privatization Initiative do not include this housing allowance.

Column 3–Check if no income: If the person does not have any income, check the box.

Part 5: An adult household member must sign the form and list his or her Social Security Number, or mark the box if he or she doesn't have one.

Part 6: Answer this question if you choose to.

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS FAMILY APPLICATION



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

Part 1. Children in School (Use a separate application for each foster child)			
Names of all children in school (First, Middle Initial, Last)	School Name	Grade	SNAP* or TANF case # (if any). Skip to Part 5 if you list a SNAP* or TANF case #

Part 2. If the child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway, check the appropriate box and call your school or homeless liaison/migrant coordinator at (508) 829-1670 Ext. 237 Homeless Migrant Runaway

Part 3. Foster Child
If this application is for a child who is the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court, check this box and then list the amount of the child's personal use monthly income: \$ _____. Skip to Part 5.

Part 4. Total Household Gross Income—You must tell us how much and how often					
1. Name (List everyone in household) <i>(Example)</i> <i>Jane Smith</i>	2. Gross income and how often it was received <i>Example: \$100/monthly \$100/twice a month \$100/every other week \$100/weekly</i>				3. Check if NO income
	Earnings from work before deductions	Welfare, child support, alimony	Pensions, retirement, Social Security	All Other Income	
	\$200/weekly	\$150/weekly	\$100/monthly	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	\$ ____ / ____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 5. Signature and Social Security Number (Adult must sign)
An adult household member must sign the application. If Part 4 is completed, the adult signing the form must also list the last four digits of his or her Social Security Number or mark the "I do not have a Social Security Number" box. (See Privacy Act Statement on the back of this page.)
I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the school will get Federal funds based on the information I give. I understand that school officials may verify (check) the information. I understand that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted.
Sign here: X _____ Print name: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____ Phone Number: _____
Social Security Number: XXX - XX - ____ _ I do not have a Social Security Number

Part 6. Children's ethnic and racial identities (optional)	
Choose one ethnicity: <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic/Latino	Choose one or more (regardless of ethnicity): <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American

Don't fill out this part. This is for school use only.
Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice A Month x 24 Monthly x 12
Total Income: _____ Per: Week, Every 2 Weeks, Twice A Month, Month, Year Household size: _____
Categorical Eligibility: ___ Date Withdrawn: _____ Eligibility: Free ___ Reduced ___ Denied ___ Reason: _____
Temporary: Free ___ Reduced ___ Time Period: _____ (expires after ___ days)
Determining Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____
Confirming Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____ Follow-up Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

FEDERAL INCOME CHART			
For School Year 2011-2012			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	20,147	1,679	388
2	27,214	2,268	524
3	34,281	2,857	660
4	41,348	3,446	796
5	48,415	4,035	932
6	55,482	4,624	1,067
7	62,549	5,213	1,203
8	69,616	5,802	1,339
Each additional person:	+7,067	+589	+136

* SNAP:

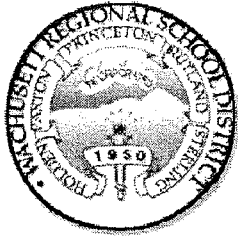
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program)

Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.

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, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the social security number of the 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.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. “In accordance with Federal law and U.S.

Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”



Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

Sharing Information With Medicaid/SCHIP

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 (SCHIP). 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 SCHIP that your children are eligible for free or reduced price meals, **unless you tell us not to.*** Medicaid and SCHIP 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 SCHIP, fill out the form below and send in (Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals).

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: _____

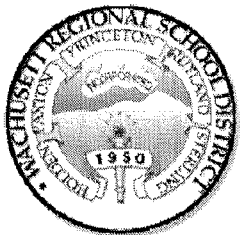
Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

For more information, you may call the Manager of Food Services at (508) 829-1670, extension 278.

Return this form to the school.

Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application
Sharing Information/Medicaid/SCHIP
2011



Wachusett Regional School District

Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

Sharing Information With Other Programs

Dear Parent/Guardian:

To save you time and effort, the information you gave me on your Free and Reduced Price Meals Application may be shared with other programs for which your children may qualify. 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.

- No! I DO NOT** want information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application shared with any of these programs.
- Yes! I DO** want information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application shared with _____.
- Yes! I DO** want information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application shared with _____.
- Yes! I DO** want information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application shared with _____.

If you checked yes to any or all of the boxes above, fill out the form 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: _____

For more information, you may call the Manager of Food Services at (508) 829-1670, extension 278.

Return this form to the school.

Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application
Sharing Information/Medicaid/SCHIP
2011

Jefferson School
1745 Main Street, Jefferson, MA 01522
Telephone: (508) 829-1670 Facsimile: (508) 829-1680
www.wrsd.net