

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Uintah School District offers healthy meals for students every school day. Your children may qualify to receive these meals for free or at a reduced price. Below is a list of common questions which many people have regarding the process of applying for free and reduced price school meals.

1. **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 complete application to your student's school or to the child nutrition Office at 223 South 100 West Vernal, Utah. You can also fill out an application online at www.uintah.net.
2. **Who can get free or reduced meals?**
 - a. All children in households receiving benefits from Food Stamps, TANF/FEP, or FDPIR, are eligible for free meals.
 - b. **Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.**
 - c. **Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.**
 - d. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
 - e. 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.
3. **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? Please call the homeless liaison or migrant coordinator at 781-3100 to see if your child(ren) qualifies if you have not already been informed that they will get free meals.
4. **Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year stating my children are approved for free or reduced price meals?** No, but please read the letter which you received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification contact the Child Nutrition Office at 435-781-3185 immediately.
5. **I get WIC can my child(ren) get free meals?** Children in household's participation in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an application.
6. **Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, we may ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
7. **If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. You may also reapply at any time if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting Food Stamps, FEP or FDPIR or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals by filling out the qualifying application.
8. **What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should talk to school officials. You may also ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Julie Wilde, Director of Student Services 635 W. 200 S. Vernal Utah 84078. Phone Number 435-781-3100.
9. **May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your child(ren), or other household members do not have to be a U.S. citizen to apply for free or reduced price meals.
10. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally make. For example, if you normally make \$1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you make \$1,000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you get it only sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
11. **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, 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.
12. **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.
13. **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.
14. **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.uintah.net and click on Departments, then Foods, then click on the box with the apple inside that says, Free & Reduced Meals Online Applications Instructions.
15. **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 30 days of the new school year, or until the new application is received, whichever comes first. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price.
16. **My Family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for Utah SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 435-781-4100.

Unpaid Student Meal Charges

It is the desire of the Uintah School District to provide healthy meals to children during the school day. In order to serve healthy, high-quality meals to children, we must be financially secure. You play a key role in this effort, and are responsible for purchases made by your child in our school cafeterias. If your child's school meal account reaches a balance of less than zero, we will attempt to collect the owed amount in a variety of ways. We may verbally remind students that lunch money is owed, attempt to contact parents through automated phone calls and emails, personally try to reach parents by phone and by text, by sending letters home through the mail and by trying to reach the parent at home in person. If a student's meal account reaches a balance of -\$100.00, and payment arrangements have not been made, the school principal will schedule a meeting with the parent/guardian to discuss the situation and find a resolution. Negative student meal accounts which are not resolved after these efforts have been made may be referred to the school district's attorney for debt collection.

If you would like to make a donation to help children who are in need purchase school meals, please contact the Uintah School District Child Nutrition Office at 781-3185.

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.

Household size	Income Eligibility Guidelines Effective From July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1.....	23,606	1,968	984	908	454
2.....	31,894	2,658	1,329	1,227	614
3.....	40,182	3,349	1,675	1,546	773
4.....	48,470	4,040	2,020	1,865	933
5.....	56,758	4,730	2,183	2,183	1,092
6.....	65,046	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
7.....	73,334	6,112	3,056	2,821	1,411
8.....	81,622	6,802	3,401	3,140	1,570
For each add'l family member, add	8,288	691	346	319	160

If you have other questions or need help, call 435-781-3185
Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al telefono: 435-781-3185

Sincerely,
Sherry Hardman
Uintah School District Food Service Coordinator

Application for Free/Reduced School Meal Benefits

If you would like to apply for free or reduced school meal benefits for your children, please fill out one free and reduced school meal application per family and return it to one of the schools within our school district or to the Child Nutrition Office at 223 South 100 West Vernal, Utah 84078. You may submit the application in person or by mail. If you prefer you may fill out an application online. Go to www.uintah.net. Click on Departments, then Foods, then click on Free-Reduced Online Application Instructions. It is important that you return the application as soon as possible because your family will be responsible to pay for all school meal fees which accrue before the application is processed. Please allow up to 10 days for processing.

*Paper applications may be obtained from your child's school or from the central Child Nutrition office at 223 S. 100 W. Vernal, Utah 84078.

Returned Check Policy

For Uintah School District Child Nutrition

There will be a \$15.00 charge for all returned checks. This charge will be placed on the student's Breakfast/Lunch account. The amount of the returned check will also be deducted from the student's account. We will then attempt to notify the student's parent/guardian of these charges. If these charges cause a deficit balance on the student's account, the Student Charging Policy will be in effect. If three returned checks are received from a household, we will no longer accept checks from that household.

STUDENT MEAL CHARGING POLICY

When a student's school meal account reaches a balance of less than zero, Uintah School District will attempt to collect the owed amount in a variety of ways. We may verbally remind students that lunch money is owed, attempt to contact parents through automated phone calls and emails, personally try to reach parents by phone and by text, by sending letters home through the mail and by trying to reach the parent at home in person. If a student's meal account reaches a balance of -\$100.00, and payment arrangements have not been made, the school principal will schedule a meeting with the parent/guardian to discuss the situation and find a resolution.

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

We encourage the parents of kindergarten students to fill out free/reduced school meal applications, even if your child does not plan to eat school meals. This is because it is possible that a kindergarten student could be served school meal(s) due to unusual circumstances. Parents of such students are responsible to pay for all meal charges acquired.

If your kindergarten student has special dietary needs, please have your physician fill out the district form titled, "Medical statement to request special meals, accommodations, and milk substitutes". It is imperative that we have this information on file, even if your child does not plan to eat meals at school, because there is a possibility that your child could be served a meal at school due to unusual circumstances.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH PRICES

	Breakfast	Lunch
Elementary	\$1.20	\$1.90
Secondary 6-8	\$1.40	\$2.10
Secondary 9-12	\$1.55	\$2.25
Adult	Equivalent to Federal reimbursement for a free student meal rounded up to the nearest 5 cents	Equivalent to Federal reimbursement for a free student meal rounded to the nearest 5 cents.
Reduced Meals all schools	\$.30	\$.40
Milk all schools	\$.50	\$.50

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