



I Speak Statements

- أنا أتكلم اللغة العربية. (Arabic)
- Ես խոսում եմ հայերեն (Armenian)
- 我说中文 (Chinese Simplified)
- 我說中文 (Chinese Traditional)
- Ja govorim **hrvatski**. (Croatian)
- اینجانب به زبان **فارسی** صحبت می کنم. (Farsi)
- Je parle **français**. (French)
- Μιλώ **ελληνικά**. (Greek)
- હું **ગુજરાતી** બોલું છું (Gujarati)
- Mwen pale **Kreyòl**. (Haitian Creole)
- मैं **हिंदी** बोलता हूँ (Hindi)
- Kuv hais **lus hmoob**. (Hmong)
- 私は **日本語** を話します。 (Japanese)
- ខ្ញុំនិយាយភាសា**ខ្មែរ** (Khmer)
- 본인의 모국어는 **한국어**입니다. (Korean)
- ئە ز زمانى **كوردى** دە ناخفم. (Kurdish)
- ຂ້າພະເຈົ້າເວົ້າ **ພາສາລາວ**. (Lao)
- Yie gongv **Mienh** waac. (Mien)
- Mówię **po polsku**. (Polish)
- Eu falo **Portugês**. (Portuguese)
- ਦਿ ਮੁੱਘਾਕ **ਪੰਜਾਬੀ** (Punjabi)
- Я говорю **по-русски**. (Russian)
- Ou te tautala **faaSamoa**. (Samoan)
- Govorim **srpski**. (Serbian)
- Waxaan ku hadlaa **Somali**. (Somali)
- Yo hablo **español**. (Spanish)
- أتحدث **السودانية** (لغوي سوداني) (Sudanese)
- Marunong po akong magsalita ng **Tagalog**. (Tagalog)
- ข้าพเจ้าพูด **ภาษาไทย** (Thai)
- ኣነ **ትግርኛ** ይዘረብ እየ. (Tigrinya)
- Я розмовляю **українською**. (Ukrainian)
- میں **اردو** بولتا/بولتی ہوں . (Urdu)
- Tôi nói tiếng **Việt**. (Vietnamese)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Student Name: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____



Somerset and Somerset Berkley Regional School Districts

All Students Achieving Excellence

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Somerset Public Schools and Somerset Berkley Regional High School offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.25 for Grades K-5 and \$1.50 for Grades 6-12; lunch costs \$2.80 for Grades K-5 and \$3.00 for Grades 6-12. **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.

Frequently Asked Questions

WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from **MA SNAP, MA TAFDC, or specific categories of Medicaid** 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.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2018-2019			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$22,459	\$1,872	\$432
2	30,451	2,538	586
3	38,443	3,204	740
4	46,435	3,870	893
5	54,427	4,536	1,047
6	62,419	5,202	1,201
7	70,411	5,868	1,355
8	78,403	6,534	1,508
Each additional person:	+7,992	+666	+154

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 Lisa Martiesian, 508-324-3100, ext 3217, or martiesianl@sbrregional.org.

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 your child's school.

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 Kelly Pavao, 508-324-3100, ext 3218, or pavaok@sbrregional.org.

NO, not at this time.

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.

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 a completed application.

WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?

Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.

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.

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 Lindsey Albernaz, 580 Whetstone Hill Road, Somerset, MA 02726, or albernazl@sbrregional.org,

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 your child's school to receive a second application.

MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?

To find out how to apply for **MA SNAP** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **the MA SNAP Hotline at 1-866-950-3663**.

If you have other questions or need help, contact Kelly Pavao at 508-324-3100, ext 3218, or pavaok@sbrregional.org.

Sincerely,
Somerset Public Schools and Somerset Berkley Regional School District

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information requested in order to verify your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. If you do not provide the information or provide incomplete information, your children may no longer receive free or reduced price meals. Pursuant to Section of 7 of the Privacy Act, disclosure of your Social Security number is not required. We do not need and are not requesting any Social Security numbers that may appear on documents you submit.

Non-Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

"In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

Sharing Information with Medicaid/CHIP

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 (CHIP). 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 CHIP that your children are eligible for free or reduced price meals, unless you tell us not to.* Medicaid and CHIP 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 CHIP, 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: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

For more information, you may contact Lindsey Albernaz, albernazl@sbregional.org, or at 508-324-3100, ext 3212.

Return this form to your child's school.

Sharing Information with Other Programs

Dear Parent/Guardian:

To save you time and effort, the information you gave on your Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application may be shared with other programs for which your children may qualify. For the following programs, please check the appropriate box if you do not wish us 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 school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **AlphaBEST Education** (Grades K-5).
 - No! I **DO NOT** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **Somerset Berkley Regional High School Athletic Department** (Grades 9-12).
 - No! I **DO NOT** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **Somerset Berkley Regional High School Technology Fee Program** (Grades 9-12).

If you checked no to any or all of the boxes above, fill out the form below to ensure that your information is not shared for the child(ren) listed below. Your information will not be shared with the programs you checked.

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

For more information, you may contact Lindsey Albernaz, 508-324-3100, ext 3212, albernazl@sbregional.org.

Return this form to your child's school.