



# Columbia Heights Public Schools Application for Educational Benefits

## Free and Reduced Price Meals

### BENEFITS YOUR FAMILY

- Qualifying students receive lunch at no cost (breakfast is free for all students).
- Families receive reduced rates for middle and high school activities.
- Families receive reduced tuition for early childhood programming.
- Students receive reduced AP testing and college application fees.



### BENEFITS YOUR SCHOOL

- Helps the District secure funds to reduce class sizes, provide counseling and social work services, and hire media specialists and educational assistants.
- Provides scholarships for students to attend early childhood programming.
- Allows the District to receive funds for academic support.

### Who should complete the application?

- You should complete the Application for Education Benefits if any of the following items apply to your household:
- Any member of your household currently participates in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).
  - Your household's total income is within the qualifying guidelines shown in the graph below. These guidelines denote gross earnings before deductions, not take-home pay. Do not include foster care payments, federal education benefits, MFIP payments or value of assistance received from SNAP, WIC or FDPIR as income.

Household Members	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Annual Household Income (\$)	23,107	31,284	39,461	47,638	55,815	63,992	72,169	80,346

- Military. Do not include combat pay assistant from the Military Privatized Housing Incentive as income.
- Your household includes one or more foster child (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child(ren)).



**PLEASE NOTE:**

- Households must reapply for educational benefits every year.**
- If you have children enrolled in multiple districts in Minnesota, an application must be filled out with each district.
- Benefits from the previous year expire mid-October without a new application being filled out.

**MORE ON THE BACK: FAQs, instructions, who to contact**

# FAQs

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Should I still submit an application if I've received a letter this school year saying my student(s) are already approved for educational benefits including free and reduced price meals for the 2018-2019 school year?**

No, you do not need to submit an application. Be sure to follow the instructions on the letter you received. Medical assistance or WIC does not automatically qualify your student(s) for free or reduced price meals. In these cases, you will still need to fill out an application.

**I am not a U.S. citizen. Can my student(s) still qualify for benefits? How is my application information used?**

Neither you, your student(s) or other household members need to be U.S. citizens to apply for educational benefits. All data collected via this application is kept confidential with the District and is not shared with the federal government.

**If my household does not qualify for benefits now, can I apply later?**

Yes, households may apply at any time during the school year. For example, if a student's parent or guardian becomes unemployed, students may become eligible if the household income falls within the qualifying guidelines (see table on front).

## How to Complete the Form

1

### Children

List all children in the household, their birthdate and school/grade level as applicable. Check the box if the child is in foster care (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility). Attach an additional page if necessary.

2

### Case Number

If any household member currently participates in any of the food assistance programs listed, check the box next to the program and write in the case number. WIC and Medical Assistance (M.A.) programs do not qualify for this purpose.

3

### Sharing of Information

Check this box if you would not like your information shared with Minnesota Health Care Programs.

4

### Income

**Part A** If a student in Step 1 has income such as SSI or earned income at a job, combine and the TOTAL income earned by students in this section.

**Part B** List all household members not listed in Step 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive an income. Include any adult who is temporarily away from home (like a student at college). Attach another page if necessary. For each household member that does receive an income, report their total income (before taxes and deductions) for each source in whole dollars only. Write in the total number of household members -- should be equal to total members listed in Steps 1 and 4. An adult household member must provide the last four digits of their Social Security number or check the box if they do not have a Social Security number.

5

### Signature and Information

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. Include contact information.



## Have Questions?

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### OUR MISSION

Columbia Heights Public Schools

Creating worlds of opportunity for each and every learner

"All Belong, All Succeed"

Para información en español llame a 763.528.4520.