FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. The Cobb County School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast cost at all schools: \$2.50. Lunch cost at all schools: \$3.75. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced-price is \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process. During 2025-2026 School Year, households qualifying for reduced-price meals will not be required to pay the reduced price \$0.30 for breakfast and the \$0.40 for lunch due to the State of Georgia budget covering these costs.

- 1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS?
- All children in households receiving benefits from Georgia SNAP or TANF, 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 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 2025-2026					
Household size	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY
1	28,953	2,413	1,207	1,114	557
2	39,128	3,261	1,631	1,505	753
3	49,303	4,109	2,055	1,897	949
4	59,478	4,957	2,479	2,288	1,144
5	69,653	5,805	2,903	2,679	1,340
6	79,828	6,653	3,327	3,071	1,536
7	90,003	7,501	3,751	3,462	1,731
8	100,178	8,349	4,175	3,853	1,927
Each Additional Person	+10,175	+848	+424	+392	+196

- 2. 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 contact the appropriate office: Homeless Education Program HEP@cobbk12.org or Migrant Education Program GAMEP@doe.k12.ga.us.
- 3. 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. Apply online now at: https://www2.myschoolapps.com/Application.
- 4. 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 the eligibility notification, email: Meals@cobbk12.org immediately.
- 5. 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:

https://www2.myschoolapps.com/Application to begin or learn more about the online application process. Contact Food & Nutrition Services at Meals@cobbk12.org to request a paper application or paper applications can be downloaded from our website: https://www.cobbk12.org/foodservices/page/47586/family-meal-application-information.

- 6. 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 through September 15, 2025 of this school year or until a new application is submitted and a new eligibility determination is made; whichever comes first. You must submit 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 need to pay full price for meals. Apply online now at: https://www2.myschoolapps.com/Application.
- 7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Apply online now at: https://www2.myschoolapps.com/Application.
- 8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- 9. 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.
- 10. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? Email: Meals@cobbk12.org. You may also ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Fair Hearing Officer, 6975 Cobb International Blvd., Kennesaw, GA 30152 or calling (770) 426-3383.
- 11. 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. Applying for school meals does not affect immigration status.
- 12. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you <u>normally</u> 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.
- 13. 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.
- 14. 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.
- 15. WHAT IF THERE ISN'TENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? Email: Meals@cobbk12.org or call (770) 426-3380 for assistance.

16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for Georgia SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or visit: Georgia Gateway website: https://gateway.ga.gov/access/.

If you have other questions or need help, email: Meals@cobbk12.org or call (770) 426-3380.

Sincerely,

Heidi Groves

Regulations Supervisor, Food & Nutrition Services

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

If you have difficulty communicating with us or understanding this information because you do not speak English or have a disability, please let us know. Contact the front office at the student's school. Free language assistance or other aids and services are available upon request.

Español:

Si tiene dificultades para comunicarse con nosotros, o para entender esta información porque no habla inglés o tiene alguna discapacidad, por favor infórmenos. Póngase en contacto con la escuela. Tenemos disponibilidad de servicios gratuitos de ayuda en otros idiomas y otro tipo de asistencia y servicios cuando lo solicite.

Português:

Se você tiver qualquer dificuldade para se comunicar conosco ou entender estas informações porque não fala inglês ou tem alguma deficiência, informe-nos. Entre em contato com a secretaria da escola. Oferecemos assistência gratuita para o idioma ou outros tipos de auxílio e serviços, mediante solicitação.

中文:

如果您因为不会说英语或有残疾而无法与我们沟通或了解这些信息,请与我们联系。聯繫學校前台。我们会根据 需求提供免费语言援助或其他辅助和服务。

한국어

귀하께서 영어를 알지 못하거나 장애로 인해 저희와의 의사소통 또는 이 정보에 대한 이해에 어려움이 있는 경우에는 저희에게 알려주십시오. 연락처 학교 프론트 오피스에 연락하십시오. 요청에 따라 무료 언어 지원 또는 기타 보조 수단 및 서비스를 이용하실 수 있습니다.

Việt:

VI: Vui lòng cho chúng tôi biết nếu quý vị gặp khó khăn khi giao tiếp với chúng tôi hoặc khó hiểu thông tin này vì quý vị không nói tiếng Anh hoặc bị khuyết tật. Liên lạc với văn phòng phía trước tại trường. Luôn có hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí hoặc trợ giúp và dịch vụ khác theo yêu cầu.

Français:

Si vous avez des difficultés pour vous communiquer avec nous ou pour comprendre ce document car vous n'êtes pas anglophone ou parce que vous êtes en situation d'handicap, veuillez nous en informer. Contactez l'école de l'élève. Une assistance linguistique gratuite ou d'autres aides et services sont disponibles sur demande.