

COMMON QUESTIONS ON 'APPLICATIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS'

I get WIC or Medical Assistance. Can I put this on the application? No, WIC or Medical Assistance case numbers cannot be used to qualify on Applications for Educational Benefits. This information must be reported to Child Nutrition by the state of Minnesota. Please fill out an application with your gross household income as children may be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals depending on household gross income and household size.

Who should I include as household members? Include yourself and all other people living in the household and sharing income and expenses, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). Do not include Anoka-Hennepin students that you listed in Step 1.

May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens for your children to qualify.

What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. If you normally get overtime, include it, but if you get overtime occasionally don't include it. For seasonal work, write in the total annual gross income.

Will the income information or case number I give be checked? It may be, some participants are randomly chosen for verification each year as required by USDA. If you are chosen, we will notify you.

How will the information be kept? All information you provide on the form, and your child's approval for meal benefits, will be protected as private and confidential data. For more information see the back page of the Application for Educational Benefits.

If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. Please complete an application at any time if your income goes down, your household size goes up, or you start receiving SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR benefits.

How to Complete the Application for Educational Benefits

Complete the Application for Educational Benefits form for school year 2024-25 online (ahschools.us/freereduced) or on paper if any of the following applies to your household:

- Any household member currently participates in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) **OR**
- The household includes one or more foster children (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child) **OR**
- The total income of household members is within the guidelines shown below (**gross earnings before deductions**, not net pay or take-home pay). **Do not include** the following income: foster care payments, federal education benefits, MFIP payments, or value of assistance received from SNAP, WIC, or FDPIR. **Military: Do not include** combat pay or assistance from the Military Privatized Housing Initiative. Indicate income based on how often pay is received (weekly, every 2 weeks, twice a month or monthly). Self-employment income is your Net Income from the previous year's Schedule C, line 37 of your tax return then divide by 12 and list it as monthly income.
- The income guidelines below are effective from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

2024-2025 Maximum Total Income for Reduced-Price or Free Benefits

2024-25 Household Size	Reduced Eligibility					Free Eligibility				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every 2 Weeks	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every 2 Weeks	Weekly
1	\$27,861	\$2,322	\$1,161	\$1,072	\$536	\$19,578	\$1,632	\$816	\$753	\$377
2	\$37,814	\$3,152	\$1,576	\$1,455	\$728	\$26,572	\$2,215	\$1,108	\$1,022	\$511
3	\$47,767	\$3,981	\$1,991	\$1,838	\$919	\$33,566	\$2,798	\$1,399	\$1,291	\$646
4	\$57,720	\$4,810	\$2,405	\$2,220	\$1,110	\$40,560	\$3,380	\$1,690	\$1,560	\$780
5	\$67,673	\$5,640	\$2,820	\$2,603	\$1,302	\$47,554	\$3,963	\$1,982	\$1,829	\$915
6	\$77,626	\$6,469	\$3,235	\$2,986	\$1,493	\$54,548	\$4,546	\$2,273	\$2,098	\$1,049
7	\$87,579	\$7,299	\$3,650	\$3,369	\$1,685	\$61,542	\$5,129	\$2,565	\$2,367	\$1,184
8	\$97,532	\$8,128	\$4,064	\$3,752	\$1,876	\$68,536	\$5,712	\$2,856	\$2,636	\$1,318
For each add'l add	\$9,953	\$830	\$415	\$383	\$192	\$6,994	\$583	\$292	\$269	\$135