

AMESBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PUBLIC RELEASE-FREE & REDUCED SCHOOL MEALS

The Amesbury Public School district is committed to establishing a school environment that helps students learn and maintain lifelong healthy eating and lifestyle habits. The Amesbury Public Schools offers nutritious meals to children each school day, often at a free or reduced price for those who need it. The Amesbury Public Schools participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, a federally funded program that helps children receive free or reduced price meals.

Your child may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals (\$.40/lunch and \$.30/breakfast). Households that receive SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), formerly the Food Stamp Program or TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) will receive a letter automatically approving children for free breakfast/lunch through the Direct Certification Program. If a household that receives SNAP or TANF benefit does not receive an automatic approval notice, the household should contact the Amesbury Public Schools. For any child not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the Amesbury Public Schools to have free meal benefits extended that that child or should submit an income application and return it to the school office at their child's school. If you do not want your child to receive free meals, please notify the Amesbury Public Schools.

When known to the school district, households will be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals if the individual child is "Other Source Categorically Eligible" because the child is categorized as homeless, migrant, or runaway as defined by law.

A foster child is categorically eligible for free meals and may be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to apply for benefits for other children. By including children in foster care as household members, it may help other children in the household to qualify for meal benefits. Categorical eligibility for free meals is extended to all children in a household when the application lists an Assistance Program's case number for any household member.

Households with any member who is currently certified to receive Assistance Program benefits may submit an application for these children with the abbreviated information as indicated on the application and instructions. Households with children who are categorically eligible under "Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs should contact the school for assistance in receiving benefits and must the relevant box on the application.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) participants may be eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Families may apply for benefits any time during the school year. Applications are available in all Amesbury Public Schools offices as well as on the Amesbury Public Schools website. Directions are included on the application. Only one application per family is required. To apply for benefits, households should fill out the application and return it to the school office. Incomplete applications will be denied and a letter will be sent to the mailing address provided on the application. Parent/guardian is responsible for all charges made on the account until the application has been approved, regardless of new status. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school officials. Once approved, meal benefits are good for an entire school year and for up to 30 operating days into the new school year as eligibility from the previous school year will continue with the program. When the carry-over period ends, unless the household is notified that their children are directly certified or the household submits an application that is approved, the children must pay full price for school meals. If an application is denied, a household may appeal the decision of the School District using the hearing procedure described in the free and reduced lunch application packet.

Children of parents or guardians who become unemployed any time during the school year may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Families may apply for benefits any time during the school year.

To find out if your family qualifies for the free or reduced priced meals, please reference the income chart below:

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

(Effective July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019)

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	Free Meals (130%)					Reduced Price Meals (185%)				
	YEAR	MONTH	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	WEEK	YEAR	MONTH	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	WEEK
1	\$15,782	\$1,316	\$658	\$607	\$304	\$22,459	\$1,872	\$936	\$864	\$432
2	21,398	1,784	892	823	412	30,451	2,538	1,269	1,172	586
3	27,014	2,252	1,126	1,039	520	38,443	3,204	1,602	1,479	740
4	32,630	2,720	1,360	1,255	628	46,435	3,870	1,935	1,786	893
5	38,246	3,188	1,594	1,471	736	54,427	4,536	2,268	2,094	1,047
6	43,862	3,656	1,828	1,687	844	62,419	5,202	2,601	2,401	1,201
7	49,478	4,124	2,062	1,903	952	70,411	5,868	2,934	2,709	1,355
8	55,094	4,592	2,296	2,119	1,060	78,403	6,534	3,267	3,016	1,508
Each additional family member, add	+5,616	+468	+234	+216	+108	+7,992	+666	+333	+308	+154

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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, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

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