



# School Lunch & Breakfast

The National School Lunch Program is available in nearly every public school and in many private schools in Wisconsin. The School Breakfast Program is available in about 1/3 of public schools and some private schools. While both programs serve students at all income levels, children in low to moderate income households can qualify for free or reduced price meals. Last year 190,000 children received free or reduced-price School Lunch each day and over 42,000 students ate free or reduced-price School Breakfast. The combined value of both meals is approximately \$75 per month per student.

## ELIGIBILITY

**Are My Children Eligible?**

**IF YOUR** school offers School Lunch and Breakfast and your family income is within program limits your children can receive free or reduced-price meals. If you receive FoodShare, your school-age children automatically qualify for free meals. There are no asset limits.

**What Are the Income Limits?**

**THE TABLE** below shows income limits for different household sizes. (If you have farm income that changes each month, use your average monthly income).

Income Limits Increase July 1, 2005

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Monthly Income Limit For FREE MEALS	\$1,009	\$1,354	\$1,698	\$2,043	\$2,387	\$2,732	\$3,076	\$3,421
Monthly Income Limit For REDUCED PRICE MEALS	\$1,436	\$1,926	\$2,416	\$2,907	\$3,397	\$3,887	\$4,377	\$4,868

## BENEFITS

**Are Meals Nutritious?**

**ALL SCHOOL** meals meet strict USDA nutritional standards. Lunches provide 1/3 of your child's daily nutritional needs; breakfasts provide 1/4. Meals may include servings of milk, juice, fruit, vegetables, bread/grains and meat or meat alternates.

**What Is Their Dollar Value?**

**LUNCH MEALS** are valued at \$47/month and breakfast meals at \$28/month.

**How Do Meals Benefit My Child?**

**BESIDES THE** nutritional and economic benefits school meals can improve your child's attention and test scores, and reduce their illnesses and absences.

## APPLICATION

**How Do I Apply?**

**COMPLETE AND** return the short application form your school district provides to each family at the beginning of the school year. If you receive FoodShare be sure to indicate your case number on the application. If you didn't receive a form, or didn't return it, you can still apply even after classes have started. Contact your local school for more information or to find out which meal programs they offer. More information is available online at [www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/). You can find out if you may be eligible by visiting the ACCESS website on the internet at [www.access.wisconsin.gov](http://www.access.wisconsin.gov).