



Oregon Department of Education

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Office of Learning/Student Services

255 Capitol St NE

Salem, OR 97310

Voice: 503-947-5600

Fax: 503-378-5156

Free and Reduced Price Meals for K-12 Students

Background

The Oregon Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs (ODE CNP) oversees the National School Lunch Program. Qualifying children are eligible for free and reduced price meals if they meet certain household income guidelines.

Qualifying

The ways in which children may qualify for free or reduced price meals are:

- Children who are homeless, runaways, received Migrant Education Support, or are living in a household that is on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) automatically qualify for free meals regardless of income or family size. A household with children meeting the above requirements, and not already receiving free school meals, should contact their local school district.
- Foster children and children who live in a household that is on the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) also qualify for free meals.
- For children qualifying by income, the eligibility for **free** meals is that the total gross household income does not exceed 1.3 times the Federal Poverty Level.
- For children qualifying by income, the eligibility for **reduced price** meals is that the total gross household income does not exceed 1.85 times the Federal Poverty Level.
- The Income Eligibility Guidelines with the exact income limits determined by household size are posted on the ODE CNP web page at:
<http://www.ode.state.or.us/wma/nutrition/snp/3511-e-income-guidelines.pdf>

Proof of Eligibility

Only households seeking to qualify based on income, foster child or FDPIR status are required to complete an application. School Districts are responsible for making the eligibility determination based on Federal Guidelines.

ODE CNP provides an eligibility application for School Districts in Oregon. The eligibility application is posted at: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3316>