

## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Board of Education

## **Public School System**

P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



## 2025-2026 Application For Free School Meals is now available at the Public School System CNP Office

PUBLIC RELEASE STATEMENT REGARDING THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT LOCAL SCHOOLS

During school year 2025-2026, children attending CNMI public schools will be served meals free of charge and are not required to submit applications in order to avail of this benefit.

The Public School System Child Nutrition Program announces its policy for children attending private schools, preschools, and daycare centers unable to pay the full price of meals served under the School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Regardless of financial standing and participation in programs such as WIC or NAP, a new free school meal application must be completed and submitted each school year to receive free school meal benefits.

Meal prices for the 2025-2026 school year will remain the same as the previous year. Students who do not qualify for free subsidized school meals may buy a subsidized school breakfast for \$0.50. Additional breakfasts can be purchased for \$4.50 at elementary schools and \$4.90 at secondary schools. Students who do not qualify for free school meals may purchase a subsidized school lunch for \$0.75. An additional lunch can be purchased for \$6.20 at elementary schools and \$6.75 at secondary schools. Each student is allowed only one subsidized breakfast and one subsidized lunch each day.

Application forms are now available at the PSS Child Nutrition Program Office located on Capitol Hill, Saipan and on the CNP website. Applications are also available at Tinian Elementary School and Rita H Inos Junior Senior High School. To apply for free meals, households must fill out the application and return it to the school or to the PSS Child Nutrition Program office. 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 or other program officials. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year which is defined as July 1 to June 30. The application can be downloaded from the CNMI Public School System's website and Facebook page beginning on or about Wednesday July 2, 2025.

To obtain free meals for children for whose households receive Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits, an adult member needs only to list the names of the school children, give a valid food stamp case number for each child, sign his/her name, list the last four digits of his/her social security number, and return the application to the Child Nutrition Program Office.

For school officials to determine eligibility for free meals of households not receiving Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits, the household must list all of the students in the household, the schools or daycare centers they attend, and also provide the following information requested on the application: 1) names of <u>all</u> household members and 2) the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. In lieu of a social security number, the household may indicate that the signer does not possess a social security number. Also, the income received by each household member must be provided by amount and source (wages, SSI, child support, etc.). For verification purposes, copies of the <a href="two most recent check stubs">two most recent check stubs</a> for each working adult staying in the household must be included with the application. Failure to include these items will delay the processing of the application.

Under the provisions of the free meal policy, the PSS Child Nutrition Program Director will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent or guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, s/he may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If the parent/guardian wishes to make a formal appeal, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to: Mr. Dale Roberts. PSS Child Nutrition Program Director located in government house 1251 on Capital Hill, Saipan.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the family should contact the CNP Office. Such changes may make the household eligible for free meals if the household income falls at or below the IEG levels listed in the chart, and they may reapply at that time.

In most cases, foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a household has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for free school meals, the household should complete an application for a family of one or contact the CNP office for more information.

The information provided by the household on the application is confidential. PSS is authorized to release student free and school meal eligibility status only to persons directly connected with the administration and enforcement of federal or state educational programs.

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to the determining official. Children determined eligible for free meals <u>last school</u> <u>year</u> will receive free meals for up to 30 days after the opening of their respective schools. This is referred to as the "30 day grace period."

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<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	2x per Month	<u>Bi-weekly</u>	<u>Weekly</u>
1	\$ 20,345	\$ 1,696	\$ 848	\$ 783	\$ 392
2	27,495	2,292	1,146	1,058	529
3	34,645	2,888	1,444	1,333	667
4	41,795	3,483	1,742	1,608	804
5	48,945	4,079	2,040	1,883	942
6	56,095	4,675	2,338	2,158	1,079
7	63,245	5,271	2,636	2,433	1,217
8	70,395	5,867	2,934	2,708	1,354
Add'l member, add	+ 7,150	+ 596	+ 298	+ 275	+ 138

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to the determining official. The PSS CNP office can be reached on Saipan: 664-3901 / 3902 or fax 664-3717, Tinian: 237-4106 / 4105, Rota: 237-4046 / 4041 / 4042. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.