

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. *Wayland-Cohocton Central School* offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.00, lunch costs \$1.55 for Kindergarten through fourth grade and \$1.80 for grades five through twelve. Children from households that meet federal income guidelines (outlined below) are eligible for free meals or reduced price meals. Reduced price meals cost each eligible student \$.25 for lunch and \$.25 for breakfast. ***This year we will continue the Pilot Program for the reduced breakfast/lunch program in which the cost will be \$0.00.*** To apply for free or reduced price meals, submit a Direct Certification letter from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance OR complete the enclosed application, sign it, and return it to Wayland-Cohocton School Lunch Program as soon as possible. Please refer to the guidelines contained in this letter when completing the application. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information.

1. **Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. Do not fill out more than one application for your household.
2. **Who can get free meals?** Children in households getting Food Stamps or TANF and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines. Each foster child must be listed on a separate application, with Part 2 completed and include an adult signature.
3. **Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals?** Please call Mr. David Mastin at 728-2212 to see if your child(ren) qualifies, if you have not been informed that they will get free meals.
4. **Who can get reduced price meals?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Chart, shown on this application.
5. **Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price Meals?** Please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at 728-2150 if you have questions.
6. **My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out another one?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for the school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send I a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new year.
7. **I get WIC, can my child (ren) get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an application.
8. **Will the information I give be checked?** The school may ask you at any time during the school year to verify your eligibility. You will be notified, in writing, if you have been selected for Verification. School officials may ask you to send papers showing that your child should receive free or reduced price meals at the time you applied.
9. **If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting Food Stamps, TANF or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.
10. **What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Mr. David Mastin, Business Manager, Wayland-Cohocton School District, 2350 Route 63, Wayland, NY 14572; 728-2212.
11. **May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
12. **Who should I include as members of my household?** You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You must include yourself and all children who live with you.
13. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.
14. **We are in the military.** Do we include our housing allowance as income? If you get an off base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
15. **My spouse is deployed to a combat zone.** Is his/her combat pay counted as income? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to his/her basic pay because of his/her deployment and it wasn't received before he/she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income.
16. **Contact your school for more information.**
17. **My family needs more help.** Are there other programs we might apply for? To find out how to apply for? To find out how to apply for State SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 800-342-3009.

**2011-2012 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES  
FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS OR FREE MILK  
REDUCED PRICE ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART  
Effective from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012**

Household Size	Annual	Month	Twice-Month	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1.....	\$20,147	\$1,679	\$ 840	\$ 775	\$ 388
2.....	\$27,214	\$2,268	\$1,134	\$1,047	\$ 524
3.....	\$34,281	\$2,857	\$1,429	\$1,319	\$ 660
4.....	\$41,348	\$3,446	\$1,723	\$1,591	\$ 796
5.....	\$48,415	\$4,035	\$2,018	\$1,863	\$ 932
6.....	\$55,482	\$4,624	\$2,312	\$2,134	\$1,067
7.....	\$62,549	\$5,213	\$2,607	\$2,406	\$1,203
8.....	\$69,616	\$5,802	\$2,901	\$2,678	\$1,339
For each additional family member add:	\$ 7,067	\$ 589	\$ 295	\$ 272	\$ 136

**How to apply:** To get free or reduced price meals for your children you may submit a Direct Certification letter received from the NYS office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, OR carefully complete one application for your household and return it to the designated office. If you now receive food stamps, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) for any children, or participate in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the application must include the children's names, the household food stamp, TANF or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member. All children should be listed on the same application must include the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income for each household member, and how often it is received and where it comes from. It must include the signature of an adult household member and that adult's social security number, or the word "none" if the adult does not have a social security number. An application that is not complete cannot be approved. Contact your local Department of Social Services for your food stamp or TANF number or complete the income portion of the application.

**Reporting Changes:** The benefits that you are approved for at the time of the application are effective for the entire school year. **You no longer need to report changes for an increase in income or decrease in household size, or if you no longer receive food stamps.**

**Income Exclusions:** The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care Development (Block Grant) Fund should not be considered as income for this program.

**Nondiscrimination Statement:** This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal Law and US Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to *USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410* or call *(202) 720-5964* or *(202)*. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Meal Service to Children with Disabilities:** Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to children with a disability, which may restrict their diet. A student with a disability is defined in 7CFR Part 15b.3 of Federal regulations, as one who has a physical or mental impairment, which substantially limits one or more major life activity. Major life activities are defined to include functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working. You must request the special meals from the school and provide the school with medical certification from a medical doctor. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please get in touch with us for further information, as there is specific information that the medical certification must contain.

**Confidentiality:** The United States Department of Agriculture has approved the release of students' names and eligibility status, without parent/guardian consent, to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of federal education programs such as Title I and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which are United States Department of Education programs used to determine areas such as the allocation of funds to schools, to evaluate socioeconomic status of the school's attendance area, and to assess educational progress. Information may also be released to State health or State education programs administered by the State agency of local education agency, provided the State or local education agency administers the program, and state or local nutrition programs similar to the National School Lunch program. Additionally, *all* information contained in the free and reduced price application may be released to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or Child Nutrition Act (CNA); including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); the Comptroller General of the United States for audit purposes, and federal, State or local law enforcement officials investigating alleged violation of the programs under the NSLA or CNA.

The disclosure of eligibility information not specifically authorized by the NSLA requires a written consent statement from the parent/guardian.

We will let you know when your application is approved or denied.

Sincerely,

*David Mastin*

David Mastin  
Business Administrator  
Wayland-Cohocton CSD

## **GUIDELINES FOR LUNCH/BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

**THE SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAM IS MAINTAINED AS A VITAL PART OF THE HEALTH PROGRAM OF WAYLAND-COHOCTON CENTRAL SCHOOL. TO ENCOURAGE GOOD NUTRITION, A WELL-BALANCED LUNCH IS OFFERED AT A REASONABLE PRICE.**

STUDENTS MAY BUY LUNCH AND BREAKFAST EACH DAY. THIS YEAR THE COST OF MEALS ARE: Lunch K-4 \$1.55; Lunch 5-12: \$1.80; Breakfast \$1.05; Reduced \$.00;

Each year a form for free or reduced lunch/breakfast is sent home by the Board of Education to all parents. If you qualify and are interested, complete the form and return it to the school. The information is evaluated and those eligible for the program are notified. The information and eligibility is confidential.

If your child/family was on the lunch program last June of 2010, they will receive lunch and breakfast through September 30th, 2011. A new application must be filed by this date or your child/family will be taken off the program.

If your child is already part of the free and reduced program, remember:

- Letters of direct certification must be sent to the Business Office at the start of school for immediate processing;
- Even though your child was part of the program last year, a new application must be filed every year;
- It takes approximately 10 days for a new application to be approved;
- You must pay full price for your child's meals until your application is approved;
- You can apply for free or reduced meals any time during the school year;
- Ala carte items such as cookies, ice-cream, etc. are not part of the free or reduced meal and must be paid for at the regular price.
- Free or reduced meal benefits apply to the complete school meal. If a child does not wish to eat the lunch and only wants a portion of the lunch, it must be paid for at the ala carte price;
- A child participating in the free or reduced lunch/breakfast may receive one meal at the free or reduced price. If the child wishes to purchase a second lunch, he/she must pay the full lunch price;
- A child who has not qualified for the free or reduced program may not use the name of a child who is qualified to receive a free or reduced lunch/breakfast;
- Breakfast is served each day for K-12 students each morning. Students who qualify for reduced lunches may purchase breakfast for \$0.00.

### **CHARGE POLICY FOR THE STUDENTS OF WAYLAND-COHOCTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

No charges are accepted from any students, grades kindergarten through 12th in the Wayland-Cohocton Central School District. It is the policy of WCCS however, that no student ever goes hungry. In the event a student comes to breakfast or lunch and has no money and no bag lunch, and is not approved for free or reduced price meals, he/she will be provided with an emergency meal at no cost. The cafeteria will not ask for money for the emergency meal from the student or his/her parents at any time.

Emergency meal consists of:

Breakfast: Toast and juice

Lunch: Sandwich and milk

Students may ask for an additional sandwich/toast at no cost

Parents and/or school counselors may be notified if a student requests an emergency meal three times in a row or several times in a two-week period. Students will not be provided with meals featuring menu items as emergency meals. We do not accept charges for milk or snacks.