

LAKE GEORGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

381 CANADA STREET, LAKE GEORGE, NY 12845

TELEPHONE: 518-668-5456

FAX: 518-668-2285

EMAIL: rutnikl@lkgeorge.org

Lynne Rutnik
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We all know that children need healthy meals to learn. Lake George Central School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.55; lunch costs \$2.50. I want you to be aware that your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Beginning July 1, 2019, students in New York State that are approved for reduced price meals will receive breakfast and lunch meals at no charge.

To determine if your family is eligible for reduced meals use the chart below and read the section "How to Apply."

2019-2020 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS

Total Family Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$ 23,107	\$ 1,926	\$ 963	\$ 889	\$ 445
2	\$ 31,284	\$ 2,607	\$ 1,304	\$ 1,204	\$ 602
3	\$ 39,461	\$ 3,289	\$ 1,645	\$ 1,518	\$ 759
4	\$ 47,638	\$ 3,970	\$ 1,985	\$ 1,833	\$ 917
5	\$ 55,815	\$ 4,652	\$ 2,326	\$ 2,147	\$ 1,074
6	\$ 63,992	\$ 5,333	\$ 2,667	\$ 2,462	\$ 1,231
7	\$ 72,169	\$ 6,015	\$ 3,008	\$ 2,776	\$ 1,388
8	\$ 80,346	\$ 6,696	\$ 3,348	\$ 3,091	\$ 1,546
*Each Add'l person add	\$ 8,177	\$ 682	\$ 341	\$ 315	\$ 158

How to Apply: To get free or reduced price meals for your children you may submit an Eligibility Letter for Free Meals received from the NYS Education Department, OR carefully complete one application for your household and return it to the designated office. If you now receive SNAP, 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 SNAP, TANF or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member. All children should be listed on the same application. If you do not list a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR case number for all the children for whom you are applying, the application must include the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income 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 the last four digits of that adult's social security number, or check the box 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 SNAP or TANF case number or complete the income portion of the application.

Reporting Changes: The benefits that you are approved for at the time of application are effective for the entire 2019-2020 school year.

Income Exclusions: The value of any child care provided or any amount received as payment for child care or reimbursement for costs for child care under the Child Care Development Fund should not be considered as income for this program.

Reapplication: You may apply for benefits any time during the school year. Also, if you are not eligible now, but during the school year become unemployed, have a decrease in household income, or an increase in family size you may request and complete an application at that time.

The question and answer list that follows can help you understand the free and reduced price meal program.

1. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Complete the *application to apply for free or reduced price meals. *Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household.* We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: **Michael Varney, Business Manager, Lake George Central School District, 381 Canada Street, Lake George, NY 12845.**

2. WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS? All children in households receiving benefits from **SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations** or **TANF**, can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the income limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines chart.

3. CAN FOSTER CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income.

4. CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, AND MIGRANT CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail **Kemm Wilson, (518) 668-5452, wilsonk@lkgeorge.org** to see if they qualify.

5. WHO CAN GET REDUCED PRICE MEALS? Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the income limits on the Federal Eligibility Income Chart, shown on this application.

6. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at (518) 668-5455 x1212 if you have questions.

7. 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 that school year and for the first 30 operating days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.

8. 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 a FREE/REDUCED PRICE MEAL application.

9. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes and we may also ask you to send written proof.

10. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.

11. 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: **Lynne Rutnik, Superintendent, Lake George Central School District, 381 Canada Street, Lake George, NY 12845** or **(518) 668-5456** or by email at **rutnikl@lkgeorge.org**.

12. 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 U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals.

13. 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) who share income and expenses. You

must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.

14. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.

15. 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.

16. MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS HER COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment and it wasn't received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. 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 **SNAP** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **1-800-342-3009**.

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 activities. 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.

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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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 or local education agency, provided the State or local education agency administers the program, and federal 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 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Rutnik', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lynne Rutnik
Superintendent of Schools

Date Withdrew _____

F ___ R ___ D ___

2019-2020 Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

To apply for free and reduced price meals for your children, read the instructions on the back, complete **only one** form for your household, sign your name and **return it to the address listed below**. Call **(518) 668-5455**, if you need help. Additional names may be listed on a separate paper.

Return Completed Applications to: **Lake George Central School District**
381 Canada Street
Lake George, NY 12845

1. List all children in your household who attend school:

Student Name	School	Grade/Teacher	Foster Child	Homeless Migrant, Runaway
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Benefits:

If anyone in your household receives either SNAP, TANF or FDPIR benefits, list their name and CASE # here. **Skip to Part 4, and sign the application.**

Name: _____ CASE #: _____

3. Report all income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered 'yes' to step 2)

All Household Members (including yourself and all children that have income).

List all Household members not listed in Step 1 (including yourself) **even if they do not receive income**. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total income for each source in whole dollars only. If they do not receive income from any other source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of household member	Earnings from work before deductions <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Child Support, Alimony <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Pensions, Retirement Payments <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Other Income, Social Security <i>Amount / How Often</i>	No Income
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Total Household Members (Children and Adults)

*Last Four Digits of Social Security Number: XXX-XX-__ __ __ __

I do not have a SS# <input type="checkbox"/>
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*When completing section 3, an adult household member must provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SS#), or mark the "I do not have a SS#" box before the application can be approved.

4. Signature: An adult household member must sign this application before it can be approved.

I certify (promise) that all the information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given so the school will get federal funds; the school officials may verify the information and if I purposely give false information, I may be prosecuted under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Home Address: _____

5. Ethnicity and Race are optional; responding to this section does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino

Race (Check one or more): American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian Black or African American Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Island White

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE – FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

Annual Income Conversion (Only convert when multiple income frequencies are reported on application)
Weekly X 52; Every Two Weeks (bi-weekly) X 26; Twice Per Month X 24; Monthly X 12

SNAP/TANF/Foster

Income Household: Total Household Income/How Often: _____ / _____ Household Size: _____

Free Meals Reduced Price Meals

Denied/Paid

Signature of Reviewing Official _____ Date Notice Sent: _____

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To apply for free and reduced price meals, complete only one application for your household using the instructions below. Sign the application and return the application to Lake George Central School District, 381 Canada Street, Lake George, NY 12845.

If you have a foster child in your household, you may include them on your application. A separate application is not needed. Call the school if you need help: (518) 668-5455. Ensure that all information is provided. Failure to do so may result in denial of benefits for your child or unnecessary delay in approving your application.

PART 1 ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

- (1) Print the names of the children, including foster children, for whom you are applying on one application.
- (2) List their grade and school.
- (3) Check the box to indicate a foster child living in your household, or if you believe any child meets the description for homeless, migrant, runaway (a school staff will confirm this eligibility).

PART 2 HOUSEHOLDS GETTING SNAP, TANF OR FDPIR SHOULD COMPLETE PART 2 AND SIGN PART 4.

- (1) List a current SNAP, TANF or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) case number of anyone living in your household. The case number is provided on your benefit letter.
- (2) An adult household member must sign the application in PART 4. SKIP PART 3. Do not list names of household members or income if you list a SNAP case number, TANF or FDPIR number.

PART 3 ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE THESE PARTS AND ALL OF PART 4.

- (1) Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are applying for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
- (2) Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. **Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, every other week (bi-weekly), 2 x per month, monthly. If no income, check the box.** 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 and Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should **not** be considered as income for this program.
- (3) Enter the total number of household members in the box provided. This number should include all adults and children in the household and should reflect the members listed in PART 1 and PART 3.
- (4) The application must include the last four digits only of the social security number of the adult who signs PART 4 if Part 3 is completed. If the adult does not have a social security number, check the box. **If you listed a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR number, a social security number is not needed.**
- (5) An adult household member must sign the application in PART 4.

OTHER BENEFITS: Your child may be eligible for benefits such as Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). To determine if your child is eligible, program officials need information from your free and reduced price meal application. Your written consent is required before any information may be released. Please refer to the attached parent Disclosure Letter and Consent Statement for information about other benefits.

USE OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

Use of Information Statement: The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not submit all needed information, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the primary wage earner or other adult household member who signs the application. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs.

We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), (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, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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PARENT/GUARDIAN CONSENT TO RELEASE ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

August 2019

If your child is eligible for free and reduced price meals, he/she also may be eligible for other benefits. To receive these benefits, you must provide written consent to permit school officials to give your name, address, and an indication that your household is eligible for free and reduced price meals, to representatives of certain programs. Failure to sign a consent statement that will allow disclosure of this information **will not affect** your child's eligibility or participation in the school meals programs.

Some of the programs that may request names and eligibility information to be used to provide benefits, and for which parent/guardian consent is required, include: federal health insurance programs such as Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance program (CHIP), other federal programs, State programs, local health and education programs and other local activities. For example, the disclosure of children's eligibility for free and reduced price meals to determine eligibility for holiday baskets, school supplies, PSAT & ACT exam fees, etc., would require written consent by the child's parent/guardian.

If you wish to provide consent to release information contained in your child's free and reduced price meal application, to receive other benefits, please complete the attached consent statement. Please call the Business Office at (518) 668-5455 x1212 if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Michael Varney
Business Manager

Nondiscrimination Statement:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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
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(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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CONSENT TO RELEASE FREE OR REDUCED PRICE ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

School officials may release information that shows that my child/children are eligible for free or reduced price to the following programs. I understand that the information will only be provided to the program(s) checked.

(Check the box next to the program area(s) you wish to release information to)

- Federal health programs such as Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- State or federal programs such as the Youth Summer Work program or the Educational Talent Search Program.
- Local health and education programs and other local programs that provide benefits such as free school supplies.
- Community programs such as holiday baskets, summer arts and playground programs.
- PSAT and/or ACT exam fees

I understand that I will be releasing information that will show that my child/children are eligible for free and reduced price meals. I give consent to release my confidential information for the above named uses.

Child/Children:

I certify that I am the child's parent/guardian for whom the application was made.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Date: _____

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
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