

1) Are meals still free for ALL students this school year?

No. The federally-funded universal meal program that provided free school meals during COVID has expired.

2) My children qualify for Free/Reduced meals. Do I still have to pay for meals?

If you have completed the 2023-2024 Free and Reduced meal application and qualified for Free or Reduced meals you DO NOT have to pay for breakfast or lunch. Students who qualify for Reduced priced meals do not have to pay because the State picks up the remainder of the cost for reduced priced meals.

3) My child qualified through SNAP/TANF – do I have to pay for meals?

Families who qualified through SNAP/TANF do NOT have to pay for school meals.

4) Is it too late to fill out the application for Free and Reduced lunches?

No, applications are still being accepted. Visit the food services department online at <https://www.pemberton.k12.nj.us/Page/1305> to apply online or print a copy to fill out.

5) My child does not qualify for Free or Reduced lunches. How do I pay for meals?

Food Services accepts check, cash and money orders. Parents may also set up an account at www.myschoolbucks.com and use their credit card to pay for meals. Students may charge meals and their parents will be notified of their outstanding balance by the cashier.

6) Where can I find the school menus and prices?

All menus and prices are posted on the district website on the Food Services page at <https://www.pemberton.k12.nj.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=1300>. Click on the menus on the left side of the page to view the correct menu. In addition, paper menus are sent home in grades Pre-K through 6th, and available in the main offices of grades 7 through 12.

7) What is the difference between the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines and the New Jersey Expanded Income Eligibility Guidelines?

The State of New Jersey has increased the amount of income a family can earn and qualify for free/reduced school meals. The online and paper applications show the federal income amounts, however a family who applies will have their eligibility determined by the expanded NJ income amounts. Parents will be notified when they are ineligible for Federal Income, but qualify for State. Amounts a family may earn and still qualify are shown in the chart below.

School meals are healthy meals that are required to meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. School meal programs must meet strict federal nutrition standards. These standards, also referred to as "the meal pattern," require schools to offer students the right balance of fruits, vegetables, low-fat or fat-free milk, whole grains and lean protein with every meal.

New Jersey Expanded Income Guideline (EIG)

New Jersey participants qualify for meals at no charge if the household income falls at or below the limits on this chart and above the limits on the Federal Reduced Price Meal chart.

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
- 1 -	29,015	2,418	1,209	1,116	558
- 2 -	39,243	3,271	1,636	1,510	755
- 3 -	49,472	4,123	2,062	1,903	952
- 4 -	59,700	4,975	2,488	2,297	1,149
- 5 -	69,929	5,828	2,914	2,690	1,345
- 6 -	80,158	6,680	3,340	3,083	1,542
- 7 -	90,386	7,533	3,767	3,477	1,739
- 8 -	100,615	8,385	4,193	3,870	1,935
Each add'l household member	10,229	853	427	394	197

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 weeks x 26, Twice a month x 24, and Monthly x 12