

Frequently Asked School Lunch Application Q & A

- **Do I have to send the application back if I do not qualify? Do I have to fill the application out or can I just initial it?**
 - Yes, please send the application back. If you do not return the application, it may result in the food services program continuing to attempt to contact you and the receipt of additional applications. You only need to list all students in section 3, check the box that says “Do Not Qualify,” and initial.

- **What should I do if I need to speak to someone who speaks Spanish?**
 - Please call our office at 630-4166 and we will either have someone assist you in Spanish or have someone return your call and assist you in Spanish.

- **If my children are in two different schools do I need another application?**
 - No. The application is a FAMILY application. You only need to fill out one application per family, not one application per child. The only exception to this would be if the children are foster children, where an individual application is **required** for each foster child.

- **What do I do if I have two children and only one application?**
 - This is a FAMILY application. You should list all students in section 3.

- **Only two of my children are listed on the application I received in the mail. What should I do?**
 - List all students living in your household in section 3 of the application.

- **I won't be working when my children start school. Do I use my income now or when they start school?**
 - You should use your income now, or within the past month, on the application. If at any time you have an increase in family size or your financial situation changes, you may reapply for benefits.

- **My income is not consistent. What do I state as my income?**
 - You can report your average weekly/monthly income. Please be aware however, if you are chosen for verification, you will be required to provide proof of this.

- **I have children at a Meriden Elementary School and at Edison. Do I use the same application?**
 - You should be filling out one application as this **FAMILY** application. You should list all students that attend Meriden Public Schools as well as EMS in section 3. Wilcox students should be listed in section 5, as Wilcox is not a part of Meriden Public Schools.

- **Do I use my client number or number on my card (food stamps)?**
 - We need your case number, which can be found on any correspondence that you have received from the state.

• **Where do I return my application to?**

- Before school starts, you should use the postage paid, addressed stamped envelope and return your application to:
 - 🕒 Food Services 22 Liberty Street Meriden, CT 06450
- Walk-ins are welcome and will receive timely assistance if necessary. Our office is staffed continuously from 8am-4pm Monday to Friday and is located in the Business Office on the second floor.
- Once school opens, your application may be returned to your child's school, mailed or hand delivered to our offices.

• **I received a Spanish application. I only speak English. What should I do?**

- Please call us at 203-630-4166 and we will send you an English application. If you prefer, you may come to the food services office and pick up and complete an application to expedite the process. Applications are also available at the office of your child's school.

• **My child attends Wilcox. Why aren't they on this application?**

- This application only applies to children attending Meriden Public Schools and students at EMS. Wilcox students should be listed in Section 5, not section 3. Wilcox students will need to fill out a separate application.

• **How do I prepay on my child's lunch account?**

- Prior to the beginning of the school year, checks may be sent to the Food Services Program at 22 Liberty Street. Please be sure to include the students name and their ID number. Once the school year has begun, checks should be brought directly to the cafeteria manager.

• **How can I stop my child from buying snacks?**

- If you would like to block your child (ren) from purchasing any food except breakfast or lunch, please send a letter directly to the Food Services Program at 22 Liberty Street. Further information on blocking "a la carte sales" can be found on our website at www.meriden.k12.ct.us.

• **I was free in another district. Does that mean that I am free in Meriden too?**

- Regardless of what your status was in another district, until you have filled out an application for Meriden Public Schools **and** your application has been processed, you are considered a paid status.
- You must complete a new application for free or reduced price meal benefits each and every year as well as when you change school districts. There are many factors that would have caused you to have different meal benefits in another town (i.e. income, household size, whether or not the district serves universal free lunch, etc).