



J. Michael Meade, Director of Operations  
Hamilton Local School District  
775 Rathmell Road  
Columbus, OH 43207

Phone: 614.491.8044 x1236  
Fax: 614.491.8323

[www.hamiltonrangers.org](http://www.hamiltonrangers.org)

Dear Parent/Guardian:

**Children need healthy meals to learn. Hamilton Local Schools offers healthy meals every school day.** Lunch costs are as follows: Elementary School \$2.00, Intermediate \$2.25, Middle School \$2.50, High School \$2.75. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$.40 for lunch. Breakfast is free for all students. This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

**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: Mary Anne Hillerich, 1105 Rathmell Road, Columbus OH 43207, 614-491-8044 ext. 1860.

**2. Who can get free meals?** All children in households receiving benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Ohio Works First (OWF) benefits can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.

**STOP!** If you have received a NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION for free meals, **do not** complete the application. But **do** let the school know if any children in your household are not listed on the Notice of Direct Certification letter you received.

**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 have not been told your children will get free meals, please call or email J. Michael Meade, Director of Operations, 614-491-8044 ext. 1236 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 reduced price 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 [phone number] 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 few 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 an application.

**9. Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, we may 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: J. Michael Meade Director of Operations at the above address.

**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 a U.S. citizen 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 who live 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 Ohio SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 877-852-0010.

If you have other questions or need help, call **614-491-8044 ext. 1860**.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Meade, Director of Operations

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING  
A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER IS ANY CHILD OR ADULT LIVING WITH YOU**

**IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES BENEFITS FROM THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) OR OHIO WORKS FIRST (OWF), FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Part 1:** List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child.  
**Part 2:** List the 10-digit case number for any household member (including adults) receiving SNAP or OWF benefits.  
**Part 3:** Skip this part.  
**Part 4:** Skip this part.  
**Part 5:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are **not** necessary.  
**Part 6:** Answer this question if you choose to.

**IF NO ONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD GETS SNAP OR OWF BENEFITS AND IF ANY CHILD IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS HOMELESS, A MIGRANT OR RUNAWAY, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Part 1:** List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child.  
**Part 2:** Skip this part.  
**Part 3:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway, check the appropriate box and call J. Michael Meade, Director of Operations, 614-491-8044 ext. 1236.  
**Part 4:** Complete only if a child in your household isn't eligible under Part 3. See Instruction for All Other Households.  
**Part 5:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are **not** necessary if you didn't need to fill in part 4.  
**Part 6:** Answer this question if you choose to.

**IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A FOSTER CHILD, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:**

**If all children in the household are foster children:**

- Part 1:** List all foster children and the school name and school grade level for each child. Check the box indicating the child is a foster child.  
**Part 2:** Skip this part.  
**Part 3:** Skip this part.  
**Part 4:** Skip this part.  
**Part 5:** Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are **not** necessary.  
**Part 6:** Answer this question if you choose to.

**If some of the children in the household are foster children:**

- Part 1:** List all household members and the name of school and school grade level for each child. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the "No Income" box. Check the box if the child is a foster child.  
**Part 2:** If the household does not have a SNAP or OWF 10-digit case number, skip this part.  
**Part 3:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call J. Michael Meade, Director of Operations, 614-491-8044 ext. 1236. If not, skip this part.  
**Part 4:** Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.
  - **Box 1—Name:** List all household members with income.
  - **Box 2—Gross Income and How Often It Was Received:** For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. Check the box to tell us how often the person receives the income—weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly. For earnings, be sure to list the **gross income**, not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned *before* taxes and other deductions. You should be able to find it on your pay stub or your boss can tell you. For other income, list the amount and check the box to tell us how often each person got for the month from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under *All Other Income*, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, Federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For **ONLY** the self-employed, under *Earnings from Work*, report income after expenses. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.**Part 5:** Adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (or mark the box if s/he doesn't have one).  
**Part 6:** Answer this question, if you choose.

**ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS, INCLUDING WIC HOUSEHOLDS, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Part 1:** List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the "No Income Box".  
**Part 2:** If the household does not have a SNAP or OWF 10-digit case number, skip this part.  
**Part 3:** If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call J. Michael Meade, Director of Operations, 614-491-8044 ext. 1236. If not, skip this part.  
**Part 4:** Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.
  - **Box 1—Name:** List all household members with income.
  - **Box 2—Gross Income and How Often It Was Received:** For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. Check the box to tell us how often the person receives the income—weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly. For earnings, be sure to list the **gross income**, not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned *before* taxes and other deductions. You should be able to find it on your pay stub or your boss can tell you. For other income, list the amount and check the box to tell us how often each person got for the month from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under *All Other Income*, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, Federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For **ONLY** the self-employed, under *Earnings from Work*, report income after expenses. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.**Part 5:** An adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of his or her Social Security Number (or mark the box if s/he doesn't have one).  
**Part 6:** Answer this question if you choose to.



Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart:

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$21,978	\$1,832	\$423
2	29,637	2,470	570
3	37,296	3,108	718
4	44,955	3,747	865
5	52,614	4,385	1,012
6	60,273	5,023	1,160
7	67,951	5,663	1,307
8	75,647	6,304	1,455
Each additional person:	7,696	642	148

**Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.**

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, 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 adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of 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), Ohio Works First (OWF) case number or other 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.

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, audiotope, 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](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:

mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410  
fax: (202) 690-7442; or  
email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**SHARING INFORMATION WITH MEDICAID/*Healthy Start, Healthy Families***

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

If your children get free or reduced price school meals, they may also be able to get free or low-cost health insurance through Medicaid or the State of Ohio *Healthy Start, Healthy Families* Program. Children with health insurance are more likely to get regular health care and are less likely to miss school because of sickness.

Because health insurance is so important to children's well-being, **the law allows us to tell Medicaid and *Healthy Start, Healthy Families* that your children are eligible for free or reduced price meals, unless you tell us not to.** Medicaid and *Healthy Start, Healthy Families* only use the information to identify children who may be eligible for their programs. Program officials may contact you to offer to enroll your children. Filling out the Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application does not automatically enroll your children in health insurance.

If you do not want us to share your information with Medicaid or *Healthy Start, Healthy Families*, fill out the form below and send in (Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals).

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**No! I DO NOT** want information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application shared with Medicaid or the *Healthy Start, Healthy Families*.

**If you checked no, fill out the form below.**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, you may call **Mary Anne Hillerich** at **614-491-8044 ext.1860**

**Return this form to: Hamilton Local Schools by 9/29/16.**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

# Healthy Start & Healthy Families

Does your child qualify for the School Meals Program?  
If so, your family may qualify for free health coverage!



## Healthy Start & Healthy Families

*Healthy Start* offers free health care coverage  
for kids (birth to age 19) and pregnant women.

*Healthy Families* offers free health care coverage for the  
entire family - parents AND kids.

Healthy Start & Healthy Families Covers:

Doctor Visits  
Hospital Care  
Immunizations  
Substance Abuse

Prescriptions  
Vision Services  
Dental Care  
Mental Health

And Much More!

For more information or an application, call:

**1-800-324-8680 (a free call!)**

TDD 1-800-292-3572

Monday - Friday 7 am to 8 pm

Saturday - Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm



*Your family's size and income determines if you and your family are eligible for Healthy Start or Healthy Families.  
Healthy Start & Healthy Families are Medicaid Programs administered by The Ohio Department of Job & Family Services.*