

SCHOOL NUTRITION PUBLIC RELEASE

Contact: Laurie Cascione, Director of Food Services 508-892-7030 x1190 or email: cascionel@lpsma.net

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Leicester Public Schools** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **\$1.50**; lunch costs **\$3.00**. **Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals.** Reduced price is **\$.30** for breakfast and **\$.40** for lunch.

The Leicester Public Schools utilizes the website www.leicester.k12.ma.us to inform parents the availability of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program. You will find various information regarding the Free and Reduced Lunch Program under the Food Service tab.

Annually, we update the information and forms on our website. Forms will be sent home with every student during the first week of school. They are also available at all schools, the Central Office (3 Washburn Square, 3rd Flr. Leicester, MA) and can be mailed to homes when necessary.

Please let Leicester Public School’s Food Service Department know if your family falls in any of the below categories. Your family may automatically qualify for free meals

- Children in household are receiving benefits from **MA SNAP, MA TAFDC, or specific categories of Medicaid.**
- **Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.**
- **Children participating in their school’s Head Start program are eligible for free meals.**
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household’s income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart. The parent or guardian of the household should fill out an application for Free and Reduced Meals

| HOUSEHOLD SIZE | FREE MEALS YEARLY INCOME | REDUCED PRICE YEARLY INCOME |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 16,237 | 23,107 |
| 2 | 21,983 | 31,284 |
| 3 | 27,729 | 39,461 |
| 4 | 33,475 | 47,638 |
| 5 | 39,221 | 55,815 |
| 6 | 44,967 | 63,992 |
| 7 | 50,713 | 72,169 |
| 8 | 56,459 | 80,346 |

For each additional family member add: \$5,746 \$8,177

Students approved by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (Virtual Gateway) will be notified by mail. Families who receive this notification DO NOT need to apply. Benefits are extended to all children within the household. Please contact us to let us know of any additional children in the home that should be receiving benefits, and are not listed on the letter you received

Households notified of their children’s eligibility must contact the LEA or school if they choose to decline meal benefits