



## Office of Business and Support Services

20601 Morningside Drive

Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

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

Phone (313) 432-3081

Helen Johnson, Assistant to Director of Finance and Operations

We are pleased to announce that Grosse Pointe Public Schools will be participating in the Michigan School Meals Program for the 2024-25 school year. This will provide each student in Kindergarten through 12th Grade one free school breakfast and one free school lunch!

**No application is required to receive the free meals, see what qualifies as a free meal on the free meal qualification sheets.**

Your student may also pay to purchase additional meals or a la carte snack and beverage items, this includes milk. However, they must have money on their account or cash/check available at the time of purchase.

To add funds to your student's account, check your student's current meal service balance or monitor your student's spending, please log on to Parent Portal:

<https://sisweb.resa.net/grossepointe/parentconnect/>

If any of your household members meets the following criteria we will need your household family to complete an Education and Nutrition Benefits Application:

- A household member participates in SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR and has a case number.
- Your household's income is within the limits of the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines (guidelines and other information are on the frequently asked questions document)

This Education and Nutrition Benefits Application is critical in determining the amount of money that our school receives from a variety of State and Federal supplemental programs like Title I A, At-risk (31a), Title II A, etc. These supplemental programs have the potential to offer support services for our students including, but not limited to:

- Instructional supports (staff, supplies & materials, etc.)
- Non-instructional services (counseling, social work, health services, etc.)
- Professional Learning for Staff
- Technology

We ask that you please complete and submit the Education and Nutrition Benefits Application as soon as possible to ensure that additional funding for our school is available to meet the needs of our students. All information on the report is confidential. Without your assistance in completing and returning the report, our school cannot maximize the use of available State and Federal funds.

To complete this form, follow:

[https://gpschools.formstack.com/forms/application\\_education\\_nutrition](https://gpschools.formstack.com/forms/application_education_nutrition)

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EDUCATION AND NUTRITION BENEFITS WITH THE MICHIGAN SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM

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Our school offers healthy meals each day. For school year 2024-25, as we stated the Grosse Pointe Public School System is joining the Michigan School Meals Program. All students can get one breakfast and one lunch free of charge each day at school. Although no application is required to receive this free meal benefit, filling out the Education and Nutrition Benefits Application is still important! Your child(ren) may qualify for other benefits like reduced fees at school. Your application may also help the school qualify for education funds, discounts, and other programs.

## 1. WHO CAN GET ADDITIONAL EDUCATION BENEFITS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from the **Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)** are eligible.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible.
- Children may receive education benefits if your household's income is within the limits of the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines on this chart.

### FEDERAL INCOME ELIGIBILITY CHART for School Year 2024-2025

Household Size	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
1	27,861	2,322	536
2	37,814	3,152	728
3	47,767	3,981	919
4	57,720	4,810	1,110
5	67,673	5,640	1,302
6	77,626	6,469	1,493
7	87,579	7,299	1,685
8	97,532	8,128	1,876
Each additional person:	9,953	830	192

2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and have not been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail the district liaison, **Crystal Fletcher, 313-432-3009, fletchc@gpschools.org**
3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. *Use one 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: **Helen Johnson, 313-432-3081, johnsoh@gpschools.org**
4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED THROUGH DIRECT CERTIFICATION? No, but please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **Helen Johnson, 313-432-3081, johnsoh@gpschools.org** immediately.

**CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes!** You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and asks you for the same information as the paper application. [https://gpschools.formstack.com/forms/application\\_education\\_nutrition](https://gpschools.formstack.com/forms/application_education_nutrition)

5. To begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact **Helen Johnson, 313-432-3081, johnsoh@gpschools.org** if you have any questions about the online application.
6. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through **October 14, 2024**. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible, you will not receive additional education benefits and your school could lose out on additional funding.
7. I GET WIC, DO I NEED TO COMPLETE AN APPLICATION? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for supplemental benefits. Please send in an application.
8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
9. 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 if the household income drops below the income limit.
10. 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: **Brandy Pavlik, 20601 Morningside Dr. Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236, 313-432-3062, pavlikb@gpschools.org**
11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply.
12. 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 occasionally. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
13. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
14. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY; DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
15. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your application. Contact **Helen Johnson, 20601 Morningside Dr. Grosse Pointe Woods, Mi 48236, 313-432-3081, johnsoh@gpschools.org** to receive a second application.
16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for **Food Assistance Program (FAP)** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office [https://newmibridges.michigan.gov/s/isd-partnershiplanding?language=en\\_US](https://newmibridges.michigan.gov/s/isd-partnershiplanding?language=en_US).

If you have other questions or need help, call **313-432-3081**

Sincerely,

**Helen Johnson**