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Assistant Superintendent

Toni Barkdoll
Director of Human Resources

Tara MacDonald
Director Student Services

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The Pelham School District; Pelham Elementary School, Pelham Memorial School, and Pelham High School announced today its policy for determining eligibility of children who may receive free or reduced-price meals served under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP), or free milk served under the Special Milk Program (SMP).

During program year 2026-2027, children enrolled in a sponsored United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) participating in school/s, Residential Child Care Institution (RCCI) or other institution may be eligible to receive Free and Reduced-Price Meals benefits or Free Special Milk benefits if your family's income qualifies. Enrolled students from a household receiving SNAP, FDPIR or TANF assistance are automatically eligible to receive free meal benefits.

USDA FEDERAL INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

(Effective from July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027)

Household size	Reduced Price Meals—185%					Free meals—130%				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly
1	29,526	2,461	1,136	1,136	568	20,748	1,729	865	798	399
2	40,034	3,337	1,669	1,540	770	28,132	2,345	1,173	1,082	541
3	50,542	4,212	2,106	1,944	972	35,516	2,960	1,480	1,366	683
4	61,050	5,088	2,544	2,349	1,175	42,900	3,575	1,788	1,650	825
5	71,558	5,964	2,982	2,753	1,377	50,284	4,191	2,096	1,934	967
6	82,066	6,839	3,420	3,157	1,579	59,668	4,860	2,403	2,218	1,109
7	92,574	7,715	3,858	3,561	1,781	65,052	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
8	103,082	8,591	4,296	3,965	1,983	72,436	6,037	3,019	2,786	1,393
For each additional family member, add	10,508	876	438	405	206	7384	616	308	284	142

An application is not required for free meal benefits for Assistance Program participants (ex. SNAP). Children in the household of Assistance Program participants are eligible for free meal benefits, and this free benefit is extended to all children in the household. Contact Pelham Nutrition Services if not all children in the Assistance Program household are not receiving free benefits.

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When known to the LEA, households will be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals if the individual child is considered under "Other Source Categorically Eligible" where the child is categorized or defined by law as foster, homeless, migrant, runaway, enrolled in an eligible Head Start, or enrolled in an eligible Kindergarten class. That designated child is free, and the benefit is not extended to others. If any child were not listed on the notice of eligibility, please contact Pelham Nutrition Services about their eligibility through an Other Source Categorically Eligible Program or submit a free and reduced income application.

Households must contact Pelham Nutrition Services to apply for free and reduced-price meals or free milk if the school has the Special Milk Program. Instructions for applying are available on the district website under Departments > Nutrition Services > Free and Reduced Meal Application. Please direct any questions about the application process to Pelham Nutrition Services, https://www.pelhamsd.org/NutritionServices.aspx or call 603-635-7384 ext. 4001. If the household is receiving benefits under Assistance Programs or Other Categorically Eligible Programs and are not notified by the school of their free meal benefits, please contact Pelham Nutrition Services.

If the household has been notified of their children's eligibility, but chooses to decline the meal benefits, the household should contact Pelham Nutrition Services.

A household may apply for benefits at any time during the school year. Children of parents or guardians who become unemployed or experience a financial hardship mid-year may become eligible for free and reduced-price meals or free milk at any point during the school year. Only one application is required for all children in the household attending schools in the same LEA. Only the last four digits of the Social Security Number of the household's primary wage earner or another adult household member (or an indication of "none") is needed when submitting the application. Information submitted on the application may be subject to verification.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) participants may be certified as eligible for free and reduced-price meals through the application process.

Categorical eligibility for free meal benefits is extended to all children in a household when the application lists an Assistance Program's case number for any household member. Households with any member who is currently certified to receive Assistance Program benefits may submit an application with abbreviated information as indicated on the application and instructions.

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Households with children who are categorically eligible through an Other Source Categorically Eligible designation may be eligible for free benefits and should contact the school or LEA for assistance in receiving benefits. A foster child is categorically eligible for free meals and may be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits for other children.

Including children in foster care as household members may help other children in the household qualify for benefits. If non-foster children in a foster family are not eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits, an eligible foster child will still receive free benefits.

An application for free and reduced-price benefits cannot be approved unless complete eligibility information is submitted, as indicated on the application and in the instructions. A household may appeal the application decision, using the hearing procedure described in the LEA's free and reduced-price policy statement.

For up to 30 operating days into the new school year (or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first) an individual child's free or reduced-price eligibility status from the previous year will continue within the same LEA. When the carryover period ends, unless the household is notified that their children are directly certified or the household submits an application that is approved, the children's meals must be claimed at the paid rate. Though encouraged to do so, the LEA is not required to send a reminder or a notice of expired eligibility.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement | Food and Nutrition Service

In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil right activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the state or local agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint 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:

1. **Mail**: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. **Fax:** (202) 690-7442; or
3. **Email**: program.intake@usda.gov

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