
[PIMA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT]

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Pima Unified School District** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **\$1.50**; lunch costs **\$2.35 for students K-6 & \$2.40 for 7-12**. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is **\$0.30** for breakfast and **\$0.40** for lunch.

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: Lori Sandoval PO Box 429 Pima AZ 85543 928-387-8007.
2. **WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?** All children in households receiving benefits from **SNAP, FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations)** or **TANF**, 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 Eligibility Guidelines.



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, HEAD START AND MIGRANT CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail Linda Peru lperu@pima.k12.az.us or 928-387-8053 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?** No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at 928-387-8007 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 and we may also 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: LORI SANDOVAL PO BOX 429 PIMA AZ 85543 LSANDOVAL@PIMA.K12.AZ.US OR 928-387-8007.
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 U.S. citizens 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 living 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 child's 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 **SNAP** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-352-8401.

If you have other questions or need help, call 928-387-8001.

Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono 928-387-8001.

Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero: 928-387-8001.

Sincerely,

Lori Sandoval

Food Service Director

Pima Schools

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER IS ANY CHILD OR ADULT LIVING WITH YOU.

Part 1:

If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, a runaway or in Head Start check the appropriate box and call **Linda Peru 928-387-8053** Complete Box A and Box B in Part 2 and then skip to Part 3.

Part 2:

- **Box A** – List all household members.
- **Box B** – List the name of the school attended by each child or mark N/A for household members not attending school.
- **Box C** – List the case number (not EBT card number) for any household member (including adults) receiving SNAP or TANF Cash Assistance or FDPIR benefits. ***Skip to Part 3.***
- **Box D** – Check the box in this section for all children in the household who are foster children (legal responsibility of welfare agency or court). ***Skip to Part 3.***
- **Box E** – For ANY household member, including children, with NO INCOME, you MUST check the “No Income” box.
- **Box F –Gross Income and How Often It Was Received:** For each household member, list each type of income received. Report how often the money is received—weekly, every other week, twice a month, monthly or yearly—by filling in the circle under the frequency amounts. **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 employer can tell you. For other income, list the amount each person received from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran’s benefits (VA benefits), disability benefits, 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.

- **Box G – Social Security Number:** Adult household member must list the last four digits of their Social Security Number or mark the box if she/he does not have one.

Part 3:

Adult household member must sign the form unless Part 1 is completed.

Part 4:

Completing this section is optional.