

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Ridgewood CHSD 234 offers healthy meals every school day. We call this the Green Plate option. Green Plate Breakfast costs \$2.50; Green Plate lunch costs \$3.50. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, use the Household Eligibility Application, which is enclosed. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information.

Ridgewood High School is NOT part of the National School Lunch Program (NSCL)

Return the completed application to Ridgewood CHSD 234, 7500 W. Montrose, Norridge IL 60706 or email to freelunchapplication@ridgenet.org.

You may be eligible for a waiver of school fees depending on your household income. As stated in Section 4:140 of the Board of Education Policy Manual, a student shall be eligible for a fee waiver when the student currently lives in a household that meets the income guidelines, with the same limits based on household size, that are used for the federal free meals program.

If you would like to be considered for a fee waiver, please submit, separate from this free meals application, a copy of PAGE 1 of your 2023 IRS FORM 1040. Submission of this application is for meals only. Fee waivers are only considered with the submission of the 2023 IRS FORM 1040. ONLY RETURN PAGES 4&5 OF THIS FORM WITH YOUR IRS FORM 1040

FREE MEALS APPLICATION INFORMATION:

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 Household Eligibility Application* for all students in your household per district. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to the school.
2. **WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?** All children in households receiving benefits from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and/or are foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for 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. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant also qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please contact your school to see if your child(ren) qualifies.
3. **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, available at: [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpccajpcgclefndmkaj/https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-02-20/pdf/2024-03355.pdf](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-02-20/pdf/2024-03355.pdf)
4. **A MEMBER OF MY HOUSEHOLD RECEIVED SNAP OR TANF BENEFITS. THE SCHOOL SENT A LETTER STATING THAT MY CHILD IS AUTOMATICALLY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS BASED ON DIRECT CERTIFICATION. DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING MORE TO ENSURE THAT MY CHILD RECEIVES FREE MEALS?** No. You do not need to do anything more to receive free meals for your child. If you have students not listed on the letter, contact the school immediately. If you do not wish to receive the free meals, you should follow the steps outlined in the letter from the school to notify school personnel immediately.
5. **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 haven't been told your children will get free meals, please contact your school.
6. **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.
7. **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 the enclosed application.
8. **WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof.
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 for free and reduced price meals 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 Dr. Jennifer Kelsall at freelunchapplication@ridgenet.org.
11. **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.
12. **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.
13. **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.
14. **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.
15. **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.
16. **MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?** To find out how to apply for SNAP, TANF or other assistance benefits, contact your local Department of Human Services office or call (800) 843-6154 (voice) or (800) 447-6404 (TTY).

Sincerely,
Mr. Thomas Parrillo, Business Manager

ISBE 68-06 NSLP SBP (5/21)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING – COMPLETE ONE APPLICATION PER HOUSEHOLD PER SCHOOL DISTRICT

IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES SNAP OR TANF BENEFITS, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR SCHOOL:

Part 1: List all household members, school and grade for each student, and a SNAP or TANF case number for any household member including adults receiving such benefits. (Attach another sheet of paper if necessary.)

Part 2: Skip this part.

Part 3: Skip this part.

Part 4: Sign the form. (The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.)

Part 5 & 6: Contact Information, and Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities: Answer these questions if you choose to. (Optional)

IF NO ONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD GETS SNAP OR TANF BENEFITS AND IF ANY CHILD IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS HOMELESS, A MIGRANT OR RUNAWAY OR HEAD START/EVEN START, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTION AND RETURN THE COMPLETE FORM TO YOUR SCHOOL:

Part 1: List all household members and the name of school for each child.

Part 2: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call your school.

Part 3: Complete only if a child in your household isn't eligible under Part 2. See instructions for All Other Households.

Part 4: Sign the form. Only if part 3 is completed, please include the last four digits of a Social Security Number. (or mark the box if s/he doesn't have one).

Part 5 & 6: Contact Information, and Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities: Answer these questions if you choose to. (Optional)

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A FOSTER CHILD, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS AND RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR SCHOOL:

If all children in the household are foster children that are the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court:

Part 1: List all foster children and the school name for each child. Check the "Foster Child" box for each foster child.

Part 2: Skip this part.

Part 3: Skip this part.

Part 4: Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are not necessary.

Part 5 & 6: Contact Information, and Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities: Answer these questions if you choose to. (Optional)

If some of the children in the household are foster children that are the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court:

Part 1: List all household members and the name of school for each child. Check the "Foster Child" box for each foster child.

Part 2: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call your school.

Part 3: 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. You must tell us how often the money is received—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 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 4: 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 5 & 6: Contact Information, and Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities: Answer these questions if you choose to. (Optional)

ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS INCLUDING MEDICAID AND WIC HOUSEHOLDS, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

Part 1: List all household members and the name of school for each child.

Part 2: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call your school.

Part 3: 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. You must tell us how often the money is received—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 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. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC or Federal education benefits. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or get combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

Part 4: 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 5 & 6: Contact Information, and Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities: Answer these questions if you choose to. (Optional)

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), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR 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, audiotape, 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, 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, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. ISBE 68-03 NSSTAP Application Instructions (5/21)

Ridgewood Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals 2024-2025

Return ONLINE: freelunchapplication@ridgenet.org
RETURN TO (School/District Name): Ridgewood High School
ADDRESS: 7500 W. Montrose Avenue, Norridge IL 60706

STEP 1 List ALL children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12. Attach another sheet of paper if you need space for more names.

Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	Grade	Foster/Child	Migrant	Runaway	Homeless	If you checked any of these boxes, please refer to the Application Instructions Step 1: Part C & Part D.

STEP 2 Do any household members (including you) participate in: SNAP, TANF, or FDIPIR?
 NO → Go to STEP 3. YES → Write case number here and proceed to STEP 4. Write only one case number in this space.

STEP 3 List ALL household members and income for each member (before taxes and deductions)

A. All Adult Household Members (Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related, including you.)
 List all Adult Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they receive income, report total gross income (before taxes and deductions) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	Earnings from Work			Public Assistance, Child Support, Alimony			Pensions, Retirement, Social Security, VA-Benefits, All Other			How often received?		
	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Monthly/Annual	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Monthly/Annual	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Monthly/Annual	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Monthly/Annual
	\$			\$			\$					
	\$			\$			\$					
	\$			\$			\$					
	\$			\$			\$					
	\$			\$			\$					

Total Household Members (Children and Adults) Last Four Numbers of Social Security Number of Primary Wage Earner or other Adult Household Member (if Applicable) Child Income Check if no Social Security Number

B. Child Income
Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Include the TOTAL income (before taxes and deductions) received by ALL children listed in STEP 1 here.

How often received?
Weekly
Every 2 Weeks
Monthly
Annual

STEP 4 Contact information and adult signature. **RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL:** Insert school address here

"I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (confirm) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."

Print Name of Adult Signing the Form Signature of Adult Today's Date

Mailing Address (if available) City State Zip Phone (optional) Email (optional)

Return completed form to your child's school.

SOURCES AND EXAMPLES OF INCOME

For additional information on income, please refer to the instructions that accompany this application.

Sources of Income		Examples of Income for Children
<p>Earnings from Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salary, wages, cash bonuses, tips, commissions Net income from self-employment (farm or business) <p>If you are in the U.S. Military:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA, or privatized housing allowances) Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing 	<p>Public Assistance/Alimony/Child Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment benefits Workers' compensation Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance from State or local government Alimony payments Child support payments Veterans benefits Strike benefits 	<p>Pensions/Retirement/All other sources of income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits Income from trusts or estates Annuities Investment income Earned interest Rental income Regular cash payments from outside household
<p>Public Assistance/Alimony/Child Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment benefits Workers' compensation Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance from State or local government Alimony payments Child support payments Veterans benefits Strike benefits 	<p>Pensions/Retirement/All other sources of income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits Income from trusts or estates Annuities Investment income Earned interest Rental income Regular cash payments from outside household 	<p>Examples of Income for Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits Income from trusts or estates Annuities Investment income Earned interest Rental income Regular cash payments from outside household

OPTIONAL

Children's ethnic and racial identities. This information is kept confidential and may be protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

Ethnicity (check one): Hispanic or Latino (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish Culture or origin, regardless of race) Not Hispanic or Latino

Race (check one or more): American Indian or Alaska Native Asian Black or African American Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander White

Return this completed form to your child's school. *Do not mail, fax, or email completed applications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

DO NOT FILL OUT

For school use only.

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice a Month x 24, Monthly x 12. Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless more than one income frequency is listed.

Total Income _____

How often? Weekly Every 2 Weeks 2x/Month Monthly Annual

Household size _____

Categorical Eligibility

Eligibility Free Reduced Denied

Determining Official's Signature _____ Date _____

Confirming Official's Signature _____ Date _____

Verifying Official's Signature _____ Date _____

Use of Information Statement

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that we use information from this application to see who qualifies for free or reduced price meals. We can only approve complete forms. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them deliver program benefits to your household. Inspectors and law enforcement may also use your information to make sure that program rules are met. Please be sure to provide the last four numbers of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult does not have one, check if no Social Security Number. Applications for a foster child do not need to list a Social Security number. Applications for children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) do not need to list a Social Security number. Some children qualify for free meals without an application. Please contact your school to get free meals for a foster child, and children who are homeless, migrant, or runaway.

The contact information below is solely to file a complaint of discrimination

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
EMAIL: program.intake@usda.gov

*Do not mail applications to this address, only complaints of discrimination.

Return completed form to your child's school.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.