

# BERNARDS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

101 Peachtree Road  
Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920

Rod McLaughlin, CPA  
School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. The Bernards Township School District participates in the following Child Nutrition Programs at the prices indicated:

	FULL PRICE			REDUCED PRICE		
	Elementary	Middle	High	Elementary	Middle	High
National School Lunch	\$2.40	\$2.55	N/A	\$0.40	\$0.40	N/A
School Breakfast	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
After School Snack	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Special Milk Program	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Split Session Kindergarten Milk	N/A	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
N/A - Not Applicable						

**How can I get health insurance for my children?** New Jersey is committed to ensure that all children are enrolled in a health insurance program. Information on your meal application will be shared with NJ FamilyCare to determine if your children qualify to participate in this state insurance program. IF YOU DO **NOT** WISH TO SHARE YOUR INFORMATION WITH MEDICAID OR NJ FAMILY CARE YOU MUST COMPLETE AND SIGN THE ENCLOSED INFORMATION SHARING FORM FOR MEDICAID or NJ FAMILYCARE, AND RETURN IT TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL . Contact information for NJ FamilyCare is listed below:

NJ FamilyCare      [www.njfamilycare.org](http://www.njfamilycare.org)      1-800-701-0710

Contact information for other food assistance programs in New Jersey are listed below:

NJ SNAP (Food Stamps)      [www.njsnap.org](http://www.njsnap.org)      1-800-687-9512  
WIC Program      [www.nj.gov/health/fhs/wic](http://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/wic)      1-866-446-5942

Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals.

Below are some common questions and answers to aid in the process of determining your child's eligibility.

- 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 one of your children's schools.
- WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?** All children in households receiving benefits from NJ SNAP 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.
- 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, 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 the school's homeless liaison or migrant coordinator 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 letter.
6. **SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?** Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school 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:

Hearing Officer Name: Rod McLaughlin Address: Bernards Township Board of Education  
 Phone Number: (908)204-2600 Ext: 106

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 school for more information.

If you have other questions or need help,  
 call (908)204-2600  
 Ext 106

Sincerely,

Signature: 

Name: Rod McLaughlin  
 Title: Rod McLaughlin

FEDERAL INCOME CHART For School Year 2014-2015			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	21,590	1,800	416
2	29,101	2,426	560
3	36,612	3,051	705
4	44,123	3,677	849
5	51,634	4,303	993
6	59,145	4,929	1,138
7	66,656	5,555	1,282
8	74,167	6,181	1,427
For each additional person, add:	+7511	+626	+145