



## South Pasadena Unified School District

Application Letter to Households  
California Department of Education  
Pricing Letter to Household (Revised May 2024)  
School Year 2025–2026

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The South Pasadena Unified School District participates in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program by offering nutritious meals every school day. California's State Meal Mandate is expanded to include both a nutritiously adequate breakfast and lunch for, not just needy children, but all children each school day.

Although meals will be free for all, the state continues to require school districts to distribute and collect Benefit applications, also known as Free/reduced-price meal applications. The results of Benefit applications determine if the State or the Federal government will reimburse Nutrition Services for meals served. Benefit applications allow the district to collect essential data needed to qualify for additional school funding intended to support academic programs for your student. Additionally, benefit eligibility can qualify households for things such as discounted internet services, P-EBT benefits, discounted rates on your energy bill, and more. Households are encouraged to apply online at [LINQ Benefit Application](#)

Paper applications will be available at each school site office. You or your children do not have to be United States citizens to qualify for free or reduced-price meals. If there are more household members than the number of lines on the application, attach a second application.

## Qualification

Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or below the federal Income Eligibility Guidelines below.

1100 EL CENTRO STREET SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91030  
PHONE (626) 441-5810

[Effective from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026]

Household size	Federal poverty guidelines	Reduced Price Meals—185%					Free meals—130%				
	Annual	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly
48 Contiguous States, District of Columbia, Guam, and Territories											
1	15,650	28,953	2,413	1,207	1,114	557	20,345	1,696	848	783	392
2	21,150	39,126	3,261	1,631	1,505	753	27,495	2,292	1,146	1,058	529
3	26,650	49,303	4,109	2,055	1,897	949	34,645	2,888	1,444	1,333	667
4	32,150	59,478	4,957	2,479	2,288	1,144	41,795	3,483	1,742	1,608	804
5	37,650	69,653	5,805	2,903	2,679	1,340	48,945	4,079	2,040	1,883	942
6	43,150	79,828	6,653	3,327	3,071	1,536	56,095	4,675	2,338	2,158	1,079
7	48,650	90,003	7,501	3,751	3,462	1,731	63,245	5,271	2,636	2,433	1,217
8	54,150	100,178	8,349	4,175	3,853	1,927	70,395	5,867	2,934	2,708	1,354
For each add'l family member, add	5,500	10,175	848	424	392	196	7,150	596	298	275	138

## Applying for Benefits

An application for free or reduced-price meals cannot be reviewed unless all required fields are completed. A household may apply at any time during the school year. If you are not eligible now, but your household income decreases, household size increases, or a household member becomes eligible for CalFresh, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) benefits, you may submit an application at that time.

## Direct Certification

An application is not required if the household receives a notification letter indicating all children are automatically certified for free meals. If you did not receive a letter, please complete an application and or contact Judy Willard, [jwillard@spusd.net](mailto:jwillard@spusd.net) or Jenifer Smith, [Jenifersmith@spusd.net](mailto:Jenifersmith@spusd.net).

## Verification:

School officials may check the information on the application at any time during the school year. The CDE requires verification of benefits once a year. You may be asked to submit information to validate your income or current eligibility for CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR benefits.

## Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Participants

Households that receive Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for WIC benefits, may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals by completing an application.

## Homeless, Migrant, Runaway, and Head Start

Children who meet the definition of homeless, migrant, or runaway, and children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals. Please contact school officials for assistance at 626-441-5810.

## Foster Child

The legal responsibility must be through a foster care agency or court to qualify for free meals. A foster child may be included as a household member if the foster family chooses to apply for their non-foster children on the same application and must report any personal income earned by the foster child. If the non-foster children are not eligible, this does not prevent a foster child from receiving free meals.

## Fair Hearing

If you do not agree with the school's decision regarding your application's determination or the result of verification, you may discuss it with the hearing official. You also have the right to a fair hearing, which may be requested by calling or writing to the following: Dave Lubs, Assistant Superintendent of Business, 1100 El Centro Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030. 626-441-5810.

## Eligibility Carryover

**Your child's eligibility status from the previous school year will continue into the new school year for up to 30 operating days or until a new determination is made.** When the carryover period ends about mid September, your child will be no longer receive federal benefits, unless the household receives a notification letter for free or reduced-price meals. School officials are not required to send a reminder or expired eligibility notices.

## Nondiscrimination Statement

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, audiotope, 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](#) (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; or fax: 833-256-1665 or 202-690-7442; or email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## How to Apply for Free or Reduced-Price Meals

Complete one application per household. For faster results apply at [LINQ Connect Meal Application](#). Paper applications are available and can take up to 10 days for results. Please print clearly with a pen. Incomplete, illegible, or incorrect information will delay processing.

1. **Student Information**—Include **all students** who attend South Pasadena Unified School District. Print their name (first, middle initial, last), school, grade level, and birthdate. If any student listed is a foster child, check the **Foster** box. If you are only applying for a foster child, complete STEP 1, and then continue to STEP 4. If any student listed may be homeless, migrant, or runaway, check the applicable **Homeless, Migrant, or Runaway** box and complete all **STEPS** of the application.
2. **Assistance Programs**—If **any** household member (child or adult) participates in Cal Fresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR, then all children are eligible for free meals. Must check the applicable assistance program box, enter one case number, and then continue to STEP 4. If no one participates, skip STEP 2 and continue to STEP 3.
3. **Report Income for all Household Members**—Must report **gross** income (before deductions) from **all** household members (children and adults) in whole dollars. Enter **0** for any household member that does not receive income. Report the combined **gross** income for all students listed in STEP 1 and enter the appropriate pay period. Include a foster child's income if you are applying for foster and non-foster children on the same application.

Print the names (first and last) of **all other** household members not listed in STEP 1, including yourself. Report the total **gross** income from each source and enter the appropriate pay period.

Enter the total household size (children and adults). This number **must** equal the listed household members from STEP 1 and STEP 3.

Enter the last four digits of your Social Security number (SSN). If no adult household member has a SSN, check the **NO SSN** box.

4. **Contact Information and Adult Signature** –The application must be signed by an adult household member. Print the name of the adult signing the application, contact information, and today's date.

### **Optional – Children's Ethnic and Racial Identities**

This field is optional to complete and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals. Please check the appropriate boxes.

### **Information Statement**

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 SSN of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the SSN are not required when you list a Cal Fresh, CalWORKs, or 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 an SSN by selecting the checkbox. 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.

### **Questions or Assistance**

Please contact: Judy Willard, Nutrition Clerk, (626)441-5820 EXT 2951 or Jenifer Smith, Director Food and Nutrition, EXT 2950.

### **Submit**

Please submit a complete application to your child's school or the nutrition office by mail or in person at 1100 El Centro Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030. Applications may also be scanned and sent by email to [jwillard@spusd.net](mailto:jwillard@spusd.net). You will be notified by mail if your application is approved or denied for free or reduced-price meals.

Sincerely,

The Food and Nutrition Department  
South Pasadena Unified School District  
1100 El Centro Street  
South Pasadena, CA 91030  
626.441-5820