



Charting The Course

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. The City of Pembroke Pines Charter School System offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast meals will be free for all students; lunch costs \$2.70 for Elementary, \$3.05 for Middle and \$3.20 for High School. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is \$0.40 for lunch. This letter includes detailed instructions on how to apply online for free or reduced price meal benefits. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- a. All children in households receiving benefits from FL SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or FL TANF, are eligible for free meals.
- b. Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- c. Children participating in their school’s Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- d. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- e. Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household’s income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 23-24			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	26,973	2,248	519
2	36,482	3,041	702
3	45,991	3,833	885
4	55,500	4,625	1,068
5	65,009	5,416	1,251
6	74,518	6,210	1,434
7	84,027	7,003	1,616
8	93,536	7,795	1,799
Each additional person:	+9,509	+793	+183

- 2. 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 call : LUWANDO WRIGHT AT 754-321-1400 FOR MIGRANT STUDENTS, KRISSA ERICSON AT 754-321-1565 FOR FOSTER STUDENTS , AND CAROLE MITCHEL AT 754-321-1566 FOR HOMELESS/RUNAWAY STUDENTS.
- 3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Use one online 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.
- 4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school’s front office if you have questions.
- 5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! Starting on Monday, August 7th 2023, you can complete a Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application “F&R Application” online by going directly to <https://frapps.horizonsolana.com/PEMP01> or by going to the PinesCharter.net website (Click on the Families & Community Header→ Food Services → “2023-2024 F&R Application online”). Call the school’s front office if you have questions.
- 6. MY CHILD’S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child’s application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through 10/3/23. You must complete an online application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not complete an online application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.



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7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please complete an online application.
8. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
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: Mark Gomes, 8300 South Palm Drive, Pembroke Pines, FL 33025, 954-518-9020, mgomes@ppines.com.
11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? The online application allows family's to list as many additional household members as needed. Call the school's front office if you have questions.
16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for FL SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-866-762-2237.

If you have other questions or need help, call:

Central Elementary:	Robin Walsh, 12350 Sheridan Street Pembroke Pines, Florida 33026, 954-322-3300.
Central Middle:	Robin Walsh, 12350 Sheridan Street Pembroke Pines, Florida 33026, 954-322-3300.
East Elementary:	Yesenia Rivero, 10801 Pembroke Road, Pembroke Pines, FL 33025, 954-443-4800.
FSU Elementary:	Luz Wittingham, 601 SW 172nd Avenue, Pembroke Pines, FL 33029, 954-499-4244.
Academic Village:	Lisa Muela, 17189 Sheridan Street, Pembroke Pines, Florida 33331, 954-538-3700.
West Elementary:	Andrea Lourenco, 1680 SW 184th Avenue, Pembroke Pines, Florida 33029, 954-450-6990.
West Middle:	Raquel Lopez, 18501 Pembroke Road, Pembroke Pines, FL 33029, 954-443-4847.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Bonilla

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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 which can be obtained online, at <https://www.ascr.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.