

How do I qualify for the Free and Reduced program?

Students whose family income is at or below 130 percent of the poverty income guidelines are eligible for free meals. Those with incomes between 130 and 185 percent are eligible for reduced price meals.

[Back to top](#)

Do I have to fill out a Free/Reduced Meal Application for my student every year?

YES. You must fill out a new Free/Reduced Meal Application every school year and include all students on one household application. If your student received meal benefits at the end of the previous school year the benefits will carry over for the first 30 operating days of the new school year, or until a current application is completed and on file. Online meal applications are available at www.dickinsonisd.org and paper applications are available by request. Online meal applications have quicker processing. Until a current application is processed, the student must either bring money to purchase a school meal or bring a meal from home. All charges must be paid that were accrued prior to the household being approved for meal benefits.

EXCEPTION: If you receive a letter stating that your student(s) have been Direct Certified (DC), then you **do not have to complete** a new application.

What is Direct Certified (DC)?

DC students are students who are certified by the state of Texas and meet the requirement for low income.

[Back to top](#)

When can I get a new application to fill out for my student(s)?

Applications for free and reduced price meals are available online through the Meal App Now link provided under "Quicklinks" on the bottom left side of the homepage at www.dickinsonisd.org. Online applications can be completed very easily using any computer or smartphone with internet access. Public computers are available for use at the Food and Nutrition Services building, all campuses, and the ESC building. Paper applications are available upon request.

Please fill out only one (1) application per household. Applications can also be completed during online registration. Applications are accepted throughout the school year. If you have a change in income or household size please call 281-229-6184.

[Back to top](#)

If my child is withdrawn from school and returns at a later date, do I have to fill out another application?

NO. If your child is approved for free/reduced meals, it is good for the entire school year.

[Back to top](#)

Can transfer students use the same application from another school district?

NO. USDA requires that a new application be completed when a student moves into a new district. Please complete only one (1) application per household per school year.