FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT EDUCATION AND NUTRITION BENEFITS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Hartland Consolidated Schools offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$2.00-\$3.00; lunch costs \$2.75-\$4.00. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced-price is \$0.30 for breakfast and\$0.40 for lunch. This packet includes an application for education and nutrition benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

- 1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS?
 - All children in households receiving benefits from the Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) are eligible for free meals.
 - Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
 - Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
 - Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
 - Children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the limits of 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 INCOME ELIGIBILITY CHART for School Year 2025-2026							
Household Size	Annually	Monthly	Weekly				
1	28,953	2,413	557				
2	39,128	3,261	753				
3	49,303	4,109	949				
4	59,478	4,957	1,144				
5	69,653	5,805	1,340				
6	79,828	6,653	1,536				
7	90,003	7,501	1,731				
8	100,178	8,349	1,927				
Each additional person:	10,175	848	196				

FEDERAL INCOME FLIGIBILITY CHART for School Year 2025-2026

- 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 Nicole Lusk at 810-626-2224.
- 3. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. *Use one Education and Nutrition Benefits 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: Student Nutrition, Hartland Consolidated Schools, 10632 Hibner Road, Hartland, MI 48353 or it may be returned to your student's building.
- 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 received carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact Student Nutrition at 810-626-2868 immediately.
- 5. CAN I APPLY ONLINE? Yes! You are encouraged to complete an online application instead of a paper application if you are able. The online application has the same requirements and will ask you for the same information as the paper application. Visit https://sisweb.resa.net/MISTAR/Hartland/ to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact Student Nutrition at 810-626-2868 if you have any questions about the online application.

- 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 9/30/2025. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new 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.
- 7. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please send in an 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: Rachel Bois, CFO, Hartland Consolidated Schools, 9525 Highland Road, Howell, MI 48843 or by calling 810-626-2100.
- 11. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOULD 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 <u>normally</u> 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 occasionally. 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? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your application. Contact Student Nutrition at 810-626-2868 to receive a second application.
- 16. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for Food Assistance Program (FAP) or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office https://newmibridges.michigan.gov/s/isd-partnershiplanding?language=en_US.

If you have other questions or need help, call 810-626-2868.

Sincerely,

Lisa Archey Student Nutrition Director, Hartland Consolidated Schools

HOW TO APPLY FOR EDUCATION AND NUTRITION BENEFITS

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the Education and Nutrition Benefits. You only need to submit one application per household, even if your children attend more than one school in Hartland Consolidated Schools. The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for school meals, education benefits, and summer EBT. Please follow these instructions in order. Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact Hartland Consolidated Schools at 810-626-2868 or SandraEnderle@hartlandschools.us

PLEASE USE A PEN (NOT A PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY.

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Tell us how many infants, children, and school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here? When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending Hartland Consolidated Schools regardless of age.
- **A)** List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. When printing names, write one letter in each box. Stop if you run out of space. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.
- **B)** Is the child a student at Hartland Consolidated Schools? Mark 'Yes' or 'No' under the column titled "Student" to tell us which children attend Hartland Consolidated Schools If you marked 'Yes,' write the grade level of the student in the 'Grade' column to the right.
- **C) Do you have any foster children?** If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. If you are ONLY applying for foster children, after finishing **STEP 1**, go to **STEP 4**.

<u>Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application.</u> If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to step 3.

D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway? If you believe any child listed in this section meets this description, mark the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway" box next to the child's name and <u>complete all steps of the application</u>. Homeless, Migrant, Runaway status must be confirmed with the appropriate program staff. If the school district cannot confirm your student's homeless, migrant, or runaway status, then the school district will contact you to complete an income-based application. You may choose to provide income information now to prevent the school district from potentially needing to contact you later

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Food Assistance Program (FAP).
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Family Independence Program (FIP).
- The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).
- A) If no one in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:
- Leave STEP 2 blank and go to STEP 3.
- B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:
- Write a case number for SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact your MDHHS caseworker.

 Go to **STEP 4**.

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How do I report my income?

- Use the charts titled "Sources of Income for Adults" and "Sources of Income for Children," printed on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
 - o Gross income is the total income received **before** taxes.
 - o Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total, "gross" amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.
- Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write "0" or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.

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- **A)** List all income earned or received by children. Report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in STEP 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household.
- What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do not have any child income.

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Who should I list here?

- When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.
- Do NOT include:
 - o People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household.
 - o Infants, children, and students already listed in **STEP 1.**
- **B)** List adult household members' names. Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." Include college students, unless they are declared independently on taxes (all college students are considered adults). Do not list any household members you listed in Step 1.
- **C) Report earnings from work.** List all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income. Net income is your income after taxes and deductions have been subtracted.
 - What if I have multiple jobs? List each job separately by entering your name and income from each job on a new line. Add an additional sheet of paper if necessary.
 - What if I am self-employed? List income from your business as a net amount. This net amount is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts (revenue). Gross receipts or revenue are all the income earned from the sale of any products or services offered.
- **D) List income from public assistance/child support/alimony.** List all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. *Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart.* If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.
- **E)** List income from pensions/retirement/all other income. List all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income" field on the application.

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- **F)** List total household size. Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in **STEP 1** and **STEP 3**. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced-price meals.
- **G) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number.** An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no Social Security Number."

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An adult member of the household must sign the application. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.

- **A) Provide your contact information.** Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.
- **B) Print and sign your name and write today's date.** Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."
- C) Mail Completed Form to: Hartland Consolidated Schools Student Nutrition Department, 10632 Hibner Road, Hartland, MI 48353 or drop off at your student's school building.

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Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals. This information is requested solely for the purpose of determining the State's compliance with Federal civil rights laws, and your response will not affect consideration of your application and may be protected by the Privacy Act. By providing this information, you will assist us in assuring that this program is administered in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Please return the application directly to your child's SCHOOL. DO NOT mail, fax, or email completed applications or questions about applications to the USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights or your child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals, education benefits, and Summer EBT will be delayed.

2025-2026 Education and Nutrition Benefits

Apply online:

https://sisweb.resa.net/MISTAR/Hartland/

Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

TEP	1: List ALL chil	dren, infants	, and students u	o to and including o	grade 12. Attac	h another sheet of	paper if you nee	ed more space for names
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Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name		hool	Grade	Foster	Homeless
1)			Yes No			Child	Migrant, Runaway
			_ -				If you checked any
2)			_				of these boxes, please
3)							refer to the Application
4)			_ 🗆 🗆 -				Instruction's Step 1: Part
ō)			🔲 🔲 _				C & Part D.
STEP 2: Do any Household	Members (includi	ing you) currently participate in: S	NAP, TANF, or FDPIR	•			
f NO > Go to STEP 3. If YE	S > Write a case nu	ımber here, then go to STEP 4 (Do not	complete STEP 3).	Case Number:			
					(Write only one case	number in this	
STEP 3: List ALL household	d members and in	come for each member (before tax	es and deductions). S	kip this step if you a	nswered "YES" to STE	2.	
A. Child Income					Child Income	How Often? Plea	ase put an X
Sometimes children in the househol	d earn or receive inco	ome. Please include the TOTAL income r	eceived by ALL children list	ed in STEP 1 here.	Wee	kly Bi-Weekly 2x N	Monthly Annually
					\$		
B. All Adult Household Me	mbara (inaludin	an vermeels)			¥		
List all Household Members not listed	in STEP 1 (including y	courself) even if they do not receive income. eceive income from any source, write '0'. If y					and deductions) for
PLEASE PRINT							
Name of Adult Household Members (First and	Last) Earnings from Wor	k How often received? Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly Annu		n received? Bi-Weekly 2x Month Month	Pensions/Retirement/ <u>Iy Annually</u> All Other Income <u>V</u>		2x Month Monthly Annual
1)	\$		\$		\$		
2)	\$		\$]		
3)	\$		\$]		
4)	\$		\$]		
5)			\$]		
Total Household Members	Last Four Digi	its of Social Security Number (SSN) of					
(Children and Adults)		Earner or Other Adult Household Membe	er (if Applicable)		Check if no SSN		
STED 4. Contact information	and adult signature	RETURN COMPLETED FORM	TO: Hartland Stude	ant Nutrition 1063	Hibnor Road Hartla	nd MI 1835	2
JIEF 4. Contact information a	and addit signature.	RETORIN COM LETED FORM	10Hartiana Stade	FIT NUTITION, 1005	L Hibrier Road, Hartia	11u, WII 1 055	<u></u>
		is true and that all income is reported. I unsely give false information, my children m					school officials may
romy (commin) the information. Fall	i aware that ii i purpu	sony give raise information, my children m	ay 1000 meai benenio, and	Thay be prosecuted uni	aoi applicable otate and ret	ioiai laws .	
Street Address (if available)	Apt#	City	State	Zip	Phone (Optional)	Email (Opti	onal)
Printed Name of Adult Signing Form		Signature of Adu			Today's Date		_

Sources of C	hild Income		Examples				
Earnings from	work		A child has a	egular full or part-time job where	they earn a salary or wages		
Social Security			A child is blind	or disabled and receives Social	Security Benefits.		
- Disability Payments		A parent is dis	A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits.				
- Surviv	or's Benefits						
	erson outside the household			ended family member regularly g			
Income from a	iny other source		A child receive	s regular income from a private p	pension fund, annuity, or trust.		
Sources of A	dult Income	Examp	es				
Earnings from	work	-If you a -Allowa	Salary, wages, cash bonuses / Net income from self-employment (farm or business) -If you are in the U.S. Military: -Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances) -Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing				
Public Assista	nce / Alimony / Child Support		-Unemployment Benefits -Workers compensation -Supplemental Security Income (SSI) -Cash assistance from State or local government -Alimony payments-Child support payments -Veteran's benefits -Strike benefits				
Pensions / Re	tirement / All Other Income -Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) -Private pensions or disability benefits -Annuities -Regular income from trusts or estates -Investment income -Earned interest -Regular cash payments from outside household						
OPTIONAL	.: Children's ethnic and rac	cial identities. This inform	ation is kept confidential and r	nay be protected by the Priva	cv Act of 1974.		
We are required	I to ask for information about y	our children's race and eth			fully serving our community. Responding	to this section is optional and	
does not affect y	your children's eligibility for fre	e or reduced-price meals.					
Ethnicity (chec	k one): Hispanic or	Latino (A person of Cuban	Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or	Central American, or other Spani	sh Culture or origin, regardless of race)		
ace (check one	or more):	erican Indian or Alaskan Na	_{tive} ⊔ _{Asian} ⊔ _{Black}	or African American UNa	tive Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	— White	
ay also use your e adult does not esistance Progra r free meals with ne contact infor stitution is prohib rogram informati udiotape, Americ	r information to make sure that have one, 'Check if no Social am (SNAP) or Temporary Assistant an application. Please core mation below is solely to file bited from discriminating on the on may be made available in land.	program rules are met. Ple Security Number' Applicati stance for Needy Families (ntact your school to get free e a complaint of discrimir e basis of race, color, nation anguages other than Englis	case be sure to provide the last for one for a foster child do not need to TANF) or Food Distribution Programeals for a foster child, and child	r numbers of the Social Security of list a Social Security number. A m on Indian Reservations (FDPII en who are homeless, migrant, civil rights law and U.S. Departmentity and sexual orientation), disquire alternative means of comm	rogram benefits to your household. Inspendent of the adult household member applications for children in households recommend to list a Social Security number runaway. ent of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for punication to obtain program information (Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY)	who signs the application. If ceiving Supplemental Nutrition umber. Some children qualify ulations and policies, this rior civil rights activity. ie.g., Braille, large print,	
orm (https://www dressed to USD	v.usda.gov/sites/default/files/do A. The letter must contain the	ocuments/USDA-OASCR% complainant's name, addre	20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-5	08-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf), from a centre of the contract of the alleged disc	which can be obtained online at <u>USDA Pr</u> any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-99 riminatory action in sufficient detail to info ISDA	92, or by writing a letter	
(1) by: mail:	U.S. Department of Agricult Office of the Assistant Secret 1400 Independence Avenue Washington, D.C. 20250-94	etary for Civil Rights e, SW	(2) fax: (833) 256-1665 (3) email: program.intake This institution is an equal of		*Do not mail applications to complaints of discriminatio		
DO NOT E	LL OUT: For School Us	o Only					
			Jonth v 24 Monthly v 42 Do set	nnualiza incomo to determina ali	gibility uplace more than one income free	ruonev is listed	
Annual Income	Conversion: Weekly x 52, EVE	ery 2 weeks x 26, Twice a	wonth x 24, Wonthly x 12. Do not a	nnualize income to determine eli	gibility unless more than one income free	quency is listed.	
Total Income:		x Month Monthly A	Household Size:	Categorical Eligib		Free Reduced Denied	
Potermining Off	icial's Signature		Confirming Official's Signature	 Date	Verifying Official's Signature	 Date	

Sharing Information with Other Programs

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Based on the information you gave on your Education and Nutrition Benefits Application; your child may qualify for other programs. For the following programs, we must have your permission to share your information. Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced-price meals.

USDA 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.

For more information, you may call Student Nutrition at ___810-626-2686______.

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: <u>USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form</u>, 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:

1. mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

- 2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- 3. **email:** <u>program.intake@usda.gov</u>

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

USDA Civil Rights Complaint Link:

https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf

Return this form to: Student Nutrition, Hartland Consolidated Schools, 10632 Hibner Road, Hartland, MI 48353 or send in with your student to school.