



Educational Benefits Form (EBF): Questions and Answers

Omaha Public Schools provides healthy meals to students at no cost through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

All students will continue to receive breakfast and lunch at no cost through the 2024-25 school year. The Community Eligibility Provision removes the need for families to fill out an application to receive breakfast and lunch. A new Educational Benefits Form will be available beginning in the 2022-23 school year. It allows eligible families to access additional benefits in our schools and community.

1. Why should our household complete an Educational Benefits Form (EBF) since meals are no-cost?

Completing an EBF may provide families with free student activity cards, discounts on home internet service, discounted or waived fees for academic testing, access to college and postsecondary resources and school and community enrichment opportunities.

Important: All students will continue to receive meals at no cost through the 2024-25 school year regardless of their educational benefit eligibility.

2. Who is eligible for additional benefits?

All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) are eligible for educational benefits.

Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for educational benefits.

Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for educational benefits.

Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for educational benefits.

Children may receive educational benefits if their household's income is below the federal income limits.

3. Who should fill out an Educational Benefits Form (EBF)?

All households with students in Omaha Public Schools can fill out an Educational Benefits Form each school year. Completion of the form will ensure that your students have access to all benefits they may qualify for, beyond no-cost school meals.

4. Do I need to fill out a form for each child?

No. Complete one Educational Benefits Form (EBF) for all students in your household. You may complete it online or submit a paper copy to your youngest child's school.

5. Will the information I give be checked or verified?

Yes, we may ask you to send written proof of the information you share.

6. How will I be notified if my students are eligible for educational benefits?

After submitting the Educational Benefit Form, schools will determine eligibility and keep that information. If your student needs verification of eligibility, please contact their school for an educational benefits eligibility letter.

7. I completed an Educational Benefits Form last year. Do I need to fill out another form this school year?

Yes, your child's form is good only for that school year and for the first few days of the next school year.

8. Can I fill out the Educational Benefits Form online?

Yes. The online form uses the same information as a printed copy. Visit <https://schoolcafe.com/OMAHAPS> to learn more and begin the process. Contact Nutrition Services, 531-299-0230, if you have questions about the online form.

9. May I reapply if my income changes or is not always the same?

Yes. You may apply for educational benefits at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start receiving SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), or FDPIR (Food Distribution on Indian Reservations).

10. What if some household members have no income to report?

Some types of income listed on the form may not apply to your family. If this happens, please write "0" in the box. If any boxes or spaces are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as a zero. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.

11. What if my income is not always the same?

List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally earn \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you make \$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.

12. 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, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, 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.

13. Who should I include as members of my household?

You must include yourself and all people living in your household, related or not (such as children, grandparents, other relatives or friends). List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application. Contact your school to receive a second application.

14. My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?

To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits, please go online to ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov or call 1-800-383-4278.

If you have any additional questions or need help, please contact your student's school.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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