




Charting The Course

Dear Parent/Guardian,

School meals play an important role in supporting children as schools reopen for School Year 2021-2022. Thanks to flexibilities provided by the USDA's National School Lunch Program, we are excited to inform you that the Pines Charter School System (PPCSS), can serve student breakfast meals at no cost and serve student lunch meals at no cost for the 1st meal for the 2021-2022 school year. *If a student opts to receive a **second lunch meal**, the student's meal account will be charged. The cost for **second lunch meals** are \$2.70 for Elementary, \$3.05 for Middle and \$3.20 for High School.* Offering free meals allows our school food service team to facilitate the safe provision of meals by eliminating the need to collect meal payments, while continuing to keep our students well-nourished and healthy. Parents/Guardians and students can also access school meal menus and nutrition information through the Nutrislice app, available for free from the App store (iOS) or Google Play (Android). Menus are also available at the PPCSS website, <https://pinescharter.nutrislice.com>. If you would like to add monies to your child's student meal account, please visit MyPaymentsPlus.com. For more information on the Food Service Program, please visit our Food Services web page on PinesCharter.net (Click on the Families & Community Header→ Food Services Department).

Parents and Guardians are still encouraged to complete a Free or Reduced Price meal application for all new students and for those who have had a change in the household. Approval of the meal application may determine whether students are eligible to receive additional assistance through other federal programs. To complete an F&R application, please visit <https://frapps.horizonsolana.com/PEMP01> to access the meal application. Below are some common questions and answers to aid in the process of completing the F&R application.

1. HOW DO I APPLY? 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 Department → "2021-2022 F&R Application online").
2. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. *Use one 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.
3. WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS? All children in households receiving benefits from FL SNAP, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or FL TANF, can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.
 If you have received a NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION for free meals for School Year 2021-22, **do not** complete the application. But **do** let the school know if any children in your household are not listed on the **Notice of Direct Certification** letter you received.
4. CAN FOSTER CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals.
5. CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, HEAD START AND MIGRANT CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals. If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail ANNETTE TORRY AT 754-321-1400 FOR MIGRANT STUDENTS, KRISSA ERICSON AT 754-321-1557 FOR FOSTER STUDENTS, and WILGUINS EDMOND AT 754-321-1566 FOR HOMELESS/RUNAWAY STUDENTS.
6. WHO CAN GET REDUCED PRICE MEALS? Your children can get reduced price meals if your household income is within the reduced-price limits on the Federal Eligibility Income Chart, shown on this application.
7. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE 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.
8. 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. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.



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9. 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 send in an application.
10. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes and we may also ask you to send written proof.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.
14. WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD? You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.
15. 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.
16. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS INCOME? If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
17. MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS HER COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment and it wasn't received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your child's school for more information.
18. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for Florida 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:	Yazmin Martinez, 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:	Kerry Clemmensen, 18501 Pembroke Road, Pembroke Pines, FL 33029, 954-443-4847.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Bonilla

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Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
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