

Household Income Eligibility Form

Why we need you to fill out the Household Income Eligibility Form when meals are free anyway?

It is important for EVERY family to fill out this form because doing so impacts the amount of aid the district receives. School Aid directly impacts programs for students. DeRuyter School District receives funding from the state and federal governments to support the needs of low-income students. For each student who qualifies for free or reduced-price meals, our district receives thousands of additional dollars in funding. Studies show that many eligible students, in particular middle school and high school students, do not complete this form each year, leaving thousands of dollars in funding for DeRuyter School District on the table.

What if my child doesn't want to eat school lunch? Why should I fill out the form?

Even if your child chooses to bring their own lunch, or goes to a school where all students receive free lunch, filling out the form is very important! It ensures that your school gets all of the funding and benefits available to support teachers and students. In addition, even if your child does not eat school lunch, students who qualify for free lunch also can receive other benefits like:

Discounts for your family on utilities and internet service
Reduced fees for SAT and ACT tests and college applications
Reduced College Application Fees
Future P-EBT Benefits

Is the Information I Submit Confidential?

The information you submit on the Free and Reduced application cannot be shared by the Food Service Department. Personal information submitted on the form is not shared with the state or federal government: only the number of students who qualify for free or reduced lunch is shared. Principals and teachers are not told which students qualify for free or reduced lunch benefits. DeRuyter School District does not share information with other organizations that provide benefits. But if your child does qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, you may use the eligibility form provided by DeRuyter School District to qualify for other benefits through providers like Spectrum Cable and National Grid.

Please call the Food Service Office at (315) 852-3400 if you need more information.

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.

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: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>(link is external), 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:**
program.intake@usda.gov(link is external)

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