



*Serving With Pride The
Township of Manalapan
and the
Borough of Englishtown*

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Dear MERS Families:

We want to ensure that you are aware that the U.S. Department of Agriculture administers the federal government's National School Lunch Program which provides free or reduced lunch costs as an option for families who submit an application and are found eligible.

Families that are found eligible for free or reduced lunch are also eligible in the Manalapan-Englishtown Regional School District to have any potential activity fees or other related district costs waived. There may also be other benefits for an eligible family, such as participation in the Summer EBT program.

To see if your family qualifies to receive this benefit, please fill out the application for free or reduced price school meals. Eligibility is based on one of the following:

- Families can qualify for free or reduced price meals through an application if their household's income is under a certain limit. To view the Income Eligibility Guidelines, please visit the [Food Services](#) Department channel on the district website.
- Children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, or children of migrant workers also qualify for free school meals when their household fills out an application.

Please note that parents/guardians only need to submit one application per household, even if their children attend more than one school in the district. The application must be filled out completely and properly submitted to certify the children for free or reduced price school meals. You will be notified of the result once it is processed. *Applications can be submitted at any time during the school year.*

Applications can be submitted via two ways:

- **Online Submission:** An online application can be submitted by utilizing the Genesis Parent Portal (<https://parents.mernj.us>) under the **Forms** tab. **Please note that the Portal is currently closed and will reopen on August 20th. You will not be able to submit an online application until after that time and after reviewing and acknowledging the opening of school forms in the Portal.**
- **Paper Submission:** Applications are also available in a PDF format that can be downloaded, completed, and returned. Please download the appropriate application accessible [HERE](#) and return to your child's school office.

For more information, please visit the [Food Services](#) section under the **Departments** tab on our district [website](#).

Sincerely,

Jodi Pepchinski
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Human Resources