Income Guidelines for Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Meals in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027

The income guidelines on page 2 of this document are from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) annual adjustments to the income guidelines, as indicated in the Child Nutrition Programs: Income Eligibility Guidelines. They are used in Connecticut to determine the eligibility of participants for free and reduced-price meals in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs from **July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027**. These income guidelines must be used by all individuals who review applications and should be distributed to all schools/sites for use by determining officials.

"Income" means income before deductions such as income taxes, Social Security taxes, insurance premiums, charitable contributions, and bonds. It includes the following:

- monetary compensation for services, including wages, salary, commissions, or fees;
- net income from non-farm self-employment;
- net income from farm self-employment;
- Social Security;
- dividends or interest on savings or bonds or income from estates or trusts;
- net rental income;
- public assistance or welfare payments;
- unemployment compensation;
- government civilian employee or military retirement, or pensions or veterans' payments;
- private pensions or annuities;
- alimony or child support payments;
- regular contributions from persons not living in the household;
- net royalties; and
- other cash income. Other cash income includes cash amounts received or withdrawn from any source including savings, investments, trust accounts, and other resources.

"Income" as used here does not include any income or benefits received under any Federal programs, which are excluded from consideration as income by any legislative prohibition, for example, the value of benefits received under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Income Guidelines for Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Meals in the CACFP and SFSP

Income Guidelines for Child Nutrition Programs: July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027

FREE MEALS

Number in family	Annual gross income	Monthly gross income	Twice per month	Every two weeks gross income	Weekly gross income
1	20,748	1,729	865	798	399
2	28,132	2,345	1,173	1,082	541
3	35,516	2,960	1,480	1,366	683
4	42,900	3,575	1,788	1,650	825
5	50,284	4,191	2,096	1,934	967
6	57,668	4,809	2,403	2,218	1.109
7	65,052	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
8	72,436	6,037	3,019	2,786	1,393
Each additional family member	**7,384**	616	308	284	142

REDUCED-PRICE MEALS

Number in family	Annual gross income	Monthly gross income	Twice per month	Every two weeks gross income	Weekly gross income
1	29,526	2,461	1,231	1,136	568
2	40,034	3,337	1,669	1,540	770
3	50,542	4,212	2,106	1,944	972
4	61,050	5,088	2,544	2,349	1,175
5	71,558	5,964	2,982	2,753	1,377
6	82,066	6,839	3,420	3,157	1,579
7	92,574	7,715	3,858	3,561	1,781
8	103,082	8,591	4,296	3,965	1,983
Each additional family member	10,508	876	438	405	203

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Applying the Guidelines

The school food authority/institution **must** compare the household's size and total household income to the income guidelines to determine eligibility for free or reduced-price meals. Children of parents or guardians who become unemployed may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals during the period of unemployment.

Conversion factors

Many households have different sources of income coming into the home at different frequencies, such as weekly or bi-weekly wages and monthly social security benefits. In these situations, all sources of income must be converted to an annual amount using the calculations below.

- Multiply **weekly** income by 52
- Multiply income received **every two weeks** by 26
- Multiply income received **twice a month** by 24
- Multiply **monthly** income by 12

If a household has only one source of income, or if all sources of income are the same frequency, do not use conversion factors. Compare the income or sum of the incomes to the chart above for the appropriate frequency and household size to make the eligibility determination.

For information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education's CACFP and SFSP webpages or contact the CACFP staff and Summer Meals staff at the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841. This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/cacfp/forms/incelig/income_guidelines_cacfp_sfsp_2026-27.pdf.

CONNECTICUT
Education

Income Guidelines for Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Meals in the CACFP and SFSP

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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

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