

School Year 2025-2026 Public Media Release for Free and Reduced-Price Meals

We are please to announce both breakfast and lunch are free for all students at all school sites thanks to the California universal free school meals program.

Ventura Unified School District announces its policy to serve nutritious meals every school day under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals if the household income is less than or equal to the federal guidelines.

Household Size	Free Eligibility Scale for Lunch, Breakfast, and Milk					Reduced-Price Eligibility Scale for Lunch and Breakfast				
	Year	Month	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Week	Year	Month	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Week
1	\$20,345	\$ 1,696	\$ 848	\$ 783	\$ 392	\$ 28,953	\$ 2,413	\$ 1,207	\$ 1,114	\$ 557
2	27,495	2,292	1,146	1,058	529	39,128	3,261	1,631	1,505	753
3	34,645	2,888	1,444	1,333	667	49,303	4,109	2,055	1,897	949
4	41,795	3,483	1,742	1,608	804	59,478	4,957	2,479	2,288	1,144
5	48,945	4,079	2,040	1,883	942	69,653	5,805	2,903	2,679	1,340
6	56,095	4,675	2,338	2,158	1,079	79,828	6,653	3,327	3,071	1,536
7	63,245	5,271	2,636	2,433	1,217	90,003	7,501	3,751	3,462	1,731
8	70,395	5,867	2,934	2,708	1,354	100,178	8,349	4,175	3,853	1,927
For each additional family member, add:										
	\$ 7,150	\$ 596	\$ 298	\$ 275	\$ 138	\$ 10,175	\$ 848	\$ 424	\$ 392	\$ 196

Households do not need to turn in an application when the household receives a notification letter saying that all children automatically qualify for free meals when any household member receives benefits from CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR. Children who meet the definition of foster, homeless, migrant, or runaway, and children enrolled in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals. Contact school officials if any child in the household is not on the notification letter. The household must let school officials know if they do not want to receive free or reduced-price meals.

Applications will be sent to the household with a letter about the free and reduced-price meal program. Households that want to apply for meal benefits, must fill out one application for all children in the household and give it to the nutrition office at 255 W. Stanley Ave., Ventura, CA 93001. For a simple and secure method to apply, use our online application at www.myschoolapps.com

Contact Susan Gallardo at 805-641-5000 x 1306 for help filling out the application. The school will let you know if your application is approved or denied for free or reduced-price meals.

Households may turn in an application at any time during the school year. If you are not eligible now, but your household income goes down, household size goes up, or a household member starts receiving CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR, you may turn in an application at that time. Information given on the application will be used to determine eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school officials. The last four digits of the Social Security number from any adult household or checking that you do not have a Social Security number is required if you include income on the application.

Households that receive Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits, may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals by filling out an application.

Foster children are eligible for free meals and may be included as a household member if the foster family chooses to also apply for the non-foster children on the same application. Including foster children as a household member may help the non-foster children qualify for free or reduced-price meals. If the non-foster children are not eligible, this does not keep foster children from receiving free meals.

Your child's eligibility status from last school year will continue into the new school year for up to 30 school days or until the school processes your new application, or your child is otherwise certified for free or reduced-price meals. After the 30 school days, your child will have to pay full price for meals, unless the household receives a notification letter for free or reduced-price meals. School officials do not have to send reminder or expired eligibility notices.

If you do not agree with the decision or results of verification, you may discuss it with school officials. You also have the right to a fair hearing, which may be requested by calling or writing the hearing official: Ahsan Mirza, Assistant Superintendent, 255 W. Stanley Ave, Ventura, CA 93001 or 805-641-5000.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.