



# HILL VIEW MONTESSORI

## CHARTER Public School

75 Foundation Avenue Haverhill, MA 01835

www.hillviewmontessori.org

978.521.2616

Public Release

### School Meal Program at Hill View Montessori Charter Public School

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Hill View Montessori Charter Public School** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **\$1.50**; lunch costs **\$3.50**. **Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals.** Reduced price is **\$0.30** for breakfast and **\$0.40** for lunch. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?
  - a. All children in households receiving benefits from **MA SNAP** or **MA TANF** are eligible for free meals.
  - b. **Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.**
  - c. **Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.**
  - d. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
  - e. Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2015-2016			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$21,775	\$1,815	\$ 419
2	\$29,471	\$2,456	\$ 567
3	\$37,167	\$3,098	\$ 715
4	\$44,863	\$3,739	\$ 863
5	\$52,559	\$4,380	\$1,011
6	\$60,255	\$5,022	\$1,159
7	\$67,951	\$5,663	\$1,307
8	\$75,647	\$6,304	\$1,455
Each additional person:	+\$7,696	\$ +642	\$ +148

2. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY? Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? 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 **HVM, Debra Diggins, ddiggins@hvmcps.org, 978-521-2616 x102**
3. 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. Return the completed application to: **HVM, Attn: Kim Stephens, 75 Foundation Ave, Haverhill, MA 01835**

4. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **Kim Stephens, 978-521-2616 x116, kstephens@hvmcps.org** immediately.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
8. 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.
9. 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: **Richard Weeks, 978-521-2616 x129, rweeks@hvmcps.org**
10. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
11. 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.
12. WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT? Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
13. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, or receive Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
14. WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY? List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper, and attach it to your application. Contact **Kim Stephens, 978-521-2616 x116, kstephens@hvmcps.org**
15. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for **MA SNAP** or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **the MA SNAP Hotline at 1-866-950-3663.**

#### OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Only the last 4 digits of the social security number of the household's primary wage earner or another adult household member is needed.
- A foster child is categorically eligible for free meals and may be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits for other children.
- Including children in foster care as household members may help other children in the household qualify for benefits.
- If the foster family is not eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits, it does not prevent a foster child from receiving benefits.
- Categorical eligibility for free benefits is extended to all children in a household when the application lists an Assistance Program's case number for any household member.
- Households with any member who is currently certified to receive Assistance Program benefits may submit an application for these children with the abbreviated information as indicated on the application and instructions.
- Households with children who are categorically eligible under Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs may be eligible for free benefits and should contact the school for assistance in receiving benefits.
- For up to 30 operating days into the new school year, eligibility from the previous year will continue.
- When the carry-over period ends, unless the household is notified that their children are directly certified or the household submits an application that is approved, the children must pay full price for school meals and the school will not send a reminder or a notice of expired eligibility.

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