

## Carver Public School District – Public Release Statement

The Carver Public School District Food Service Department offers complete breakfast and lunch meals daily to all students. Breakfast and Lunch meals include all food items listed in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) nutritional guidelines.

DESE guidelines make it possible for the Carver Public School District to offer these meals in three price categories.

- 1) **Full Paid** Price Category. The price of a full price paid breakfast is \$1.75  
The price of a full paid lunch is \$2.50 at the Elementary School and  
\$2.75 at the Middle/High School.
- 2) **Reduced Priced Meal** Category. The cost of a Reduced Priced Breakfast is .30  
The price cost of a Reduced Priced Lunch is .40
- 3) **Free** category. This category includes the Free Breakfast and Lunch Meals both  
Offered at NO CHARGE to the family.

How does a family qualify for assistance? On or near the first day of school of each new school year, students are sent home with a Free and Reduced Priced Meal Application. The Food Service Department requests that parents or guardians complete ONE application per household and return it to their child's school inside a sealed envelope addressed to: Food Service Department. Applications are also available on line: [www.carver.org](http://www.carver.org)

The completed applications are then reviewed by the Determining Official and the Confirming Official to determine eligibility based on information provided and by the Income Eligibility Guidelines. After the applications are processed, the Food Service Department mails a Notification Letter to every household submitting an application. The Notification Letter includes information regarding each family's eligibility status and costs for breakfast and lunch.

Any student of families that are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or as applicable, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) if the State Program meets the statutory requirements. No application is required for free meal benefits for these households. If eligible, a letter is mailed home prior to the start of the new school year. All children in these households are eligible for free meals benefits. If any children were not listed on this notification, please Contact the (LEA) Food Service Director listed on the letter.

When known to the LEA, households will also be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals if the individual child is Other Source Categorically eligible because the child is:

- A) Homeless, migrant or runaway as defined by law; or
- B) Enrolled in an eligible Head Start, Even Start or Pre-Kindergarten class as defined by law.
- C) For any child not listed on the eligibility notice, please contact the LEA (Food Service Director listed on the letter.

If households/children receive benefits under Assistance Programs or other source programs are not notified by the School District of their free meal benefits, the parent/guardian should Contact the Food Service Director.

Households notified of their children’s eligibility may also chose to DECLINE the benefit. Please contact the Food Service Director.

Every family can apply at any time during the school year and can apply more than once. There is no limit on how many times a family apply nor is there a deadline on when a family can apply. This program is completely confidential.

Once approved, your meal status of Free or Reduced Priced meals will be in effect the entire school year. There is a “carry-over” grace period of 30 school days into each new school year. If you do not reapply or do not receive notification for the new year; this status will expire on that grace period date and the student automatically becomes a FULL PAID student.

Please contact the Food Service Director; Kathleen Farrar, for details. Contact information is listed on the Carver Public Schools web page at [www.carver.org](http://www.carver.org)

| FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2019-2020 |          |         |        |
|--|----------|---------|--------|
| Household size   | Yearly   | Monthly | Weekly |
| 1  | \$23,107 | \$1,926 | \$445  |
| 2  | 31,284   | 2,607   | 602    |
| 3  | 39,461   | 3,289   | 759    |
| 4  | 47,638   | 3,970   | 917    |
| 5  | 55,815   | 4,652   | 1,074  |
| 6  | 63,992   | 5,333   | 1,231  |
| 7  | 72,169   | 6,015   | 1,388  |
| 8  | 80,346   | 6,696   | 1,546  |
| Each additional person:                                    | +8,177   | +682    | +158   |
|  |          |         |        |

**Non-Discrimination Statement:** This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. "In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter 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;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider."