

Our aim...

There are 173,000 pupils in Hertfordshire schools and 12,000 of these could get free school meals; however only 10,000 children do.

We would like to help families whose children could get free school meals to apply for them.

Why apply?

- School dinners provide a healthy, nutritious and tasty meal
- Research shows that a school dinner can help concentration levels
- Menus are changed often and can be viewed online at:
www.hertsdirect.org/catering
- Local produce is used if possible

How to apply

You can apply by:

- visiting www.hertsdirect.org/interactive
- calling us on **0300 123 4048**

It is quick and easy to do.

Apply today!

For more information

Visit www.hertsdirect.org/interactive
or call us on **0300 123 4048**.

Opening hours:

8am-8pm Monday to Friday

9am-4pm Saturday

If you need help to translate this leaflet into another language, including British Sign Language, or if you require the information in large print, Braille or on audio tape, please contact us on 0300 123 4048.

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Free School Meals

Are you missing out?

If you receive benefits, your child could be tucking into a tasty free school meal.

Don't miss out, apply now!



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Hertfordshire County Council

Hertfordshire County Council
0300 123 4048
www.hertsdirect.org/interactive



The way families apply for free school meals in Hertfordshire has changed, making it **faster** and **easier** to apply than ever before.

Don't miss out, apply now!

Did you know that, in most cases, you now don't need to give a paper proof of benefit* when applying for free school meals?

Hertfordshire County Council can check if your child can get free school meals by checking your:

- name
- date of birth
- national insurance number or national asylum seekers service number

The above details must be for the person receiving the qualifying benefit – there is a list of these on the next page.

* in a small number of cases we may need to ask you to provide paper proof of benefit

The new system means that:

- You don't have to show a paper proof of benefit
- You don't have to re-apply for free school meals every year
- Your child will get their free school meals sooner because the process is faster
- Your information is confidential

Can my child get free school meals?

You must receive one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that, as of 6 April 2009, does not exceed £16,040.**
- The Guarantee element of the State Pension Credit

**From 1 May 2009, if you are entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment stops, or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week, your child would also be eligible for free school meals for this four-week period only.

You must also:

- Have a child between the ages of 3 and 19 in full time education at a state school
- Be resident in and pay your council tax to either a Hertfordshire borough or district council or one of the following councils***
 - Barnet
 - Brent
 - Buckinghamshire
 - Cambridgeshire
 - Haringey
 - Harrow
 - Essex
 - Peterborough
 - Slough
 - Suffolk
 - Waltham Forest

*** Pupils in schools outside of Hertfordshire or the local authorities listed above should apply to their home local authority.

