

MAINE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH

1111 South Dee Road, Park Ridge, IL 60068 • 847-825-7711 • fax: 847-692-8210 • http://south.maine207.org

Benjamin D. Collins

Principal

Iris J. Smith
Associate Principal
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June 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian:

District 207 offers a program for free or reduced-price meals and waiver of school fees for the 2021-22 school year. For those interested in applying for a waiver, applications <u>must</u> be submitted by **Friday**, **August 6**, **2021**.

To apply for a fee waiver please provide the following: (1) a completed application form (click here for the form) and (2) documentation of your household's gross income. Fee waiver applications may be mailed or dropped off to Maine South High School beginning Monday, July 5 through Friday, August 6. If you want to drop off your materials in person, please note that materials must be dropped off at Door 53 (north end of campus near athletics) at Maine South High School anytime Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Everyone entering the building must wear a mask or other face covering as directed by the governor. It is extremely important that you apply during this time period. While applications will be accepted at any time, they are effective on the date that they are approved and are not retroactive to the beginning of the school year.

Free/Reduced Price Meals: Your student(s) may qualify for free or reduced-price meals. The reduced-price meal is \$1.25 for breakfast and \$2.00 for lunch.

Waiver of School Fees: The Board of Education waives all school fees assessed by the district for a student's required participation in any curricular or extracurricular program, as long as the parent/guardian meets the eligibility. "School fees" are defined in the Board's policy as "any monetary charge collected by the school or district from a student as a prerequisite for the student's participation in curricular and/or extracurricular programs of the school or district."

School fees include, but are not limited to, costs for:

- All charges for required textbooks and instructional materials;
- All charges and deposits collected by a school for use of school property (locks, 1st time PE uniform, ID's, other general fees);
- Charges for field trips made during school hours or after school hours if the field trip is a customary part of a class;
- Charges or deposits for uniforms or equipment related to interscholastic athletics, teams organized for interscholastic participation, intramurals or fine arts programs;
- Supplies required for a particular class;
- Graduation fees;
- School records fees;
- Driver education fees assessed pursuant to Section 27-23 of the School Code;
- Technology fee;
- Participation activity fee.



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School fees do not include:

- Fines and other charges made for the loss, misuse or destruction of school property (i.e. Chromebooks, library materials, etc.);
- Replacement cost of lost school ID;
- Activity/Contest Entrance Fee;
- Charges for the purchase of yearbooks, pictures or similar items;
- Charges for optional travel undertaken by a school club or group of students outside of school hours;
- Charges for admission to school dances, athletic events or other social events;
- Personal items for athletic/intramural/extracurricular events such as athletic shoes, baseball gloves, etc.

Fee Waiver Application | Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I need to fill out an application for each of my high school students?

No. Use one Household Eligibility Application for all high school students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information.

2. Who can get free/reduced meals and a school fee waiver?

With a completed application, all students attending Maine 207 High Schools who have a household income that is within the limits on the Federal Income Chart are eligible to receive free/reduced meals and a school fee waiver. The Federal Income Chart can be found on the application.

Students in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and foster children receive these items regardless of income and will receive a letter letting them know that they have been approved.

3. I receive WIC. Can my student get free meals?

Children in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out the enclosed application.

4. My high school student's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out another one?

Yes. Your student's application is only good for the current school year (ie. 2021-2022).

5. If I do not qualify now, may I apply later?

Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year. While applications will be accepted at any time, they are effective on the date that they are approved and are not retroactive to the beginning of the school year.

6. Who should I include as members of my household?

You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You must include yourself and all children who live with you.



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7. What if I do not have a Social Security number?

While there is a section that asks for a Social Security number, you do not have to answer this question if you do not have one. Note that the district will not use or share with a third party your Social Security number nor information regarding your lack of a Social Security number for any reason.

8. What other information do I need to include with the application?

- All 2020 Federal tax returns (IRS Form 1040) for each working household member who has such a form,
 AND
- Copies of all W-2's and 1099's.; **OR**
- Evidence of participation in TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); **OR**
- Evidence the student is a foster child. **OR**
- If you are unable to provide any of the information listed above, please contact the Associate Principal.

Note that the District will not use or share with any third party your tax forms or any information regarding your lack of tax forms for any reason unrelated to your request for free or reduced-price meals or a fee waiver

It is important to advise you that Illinois Revised Statutes, Chapter 38, Paragraph 17-6 provides that supplying false information to obtain a fee waiver is a Class 4 felony.

We will review and verify the information you submit and return a form letting you know if your fee waiver request has been approved. If your fee waiver request is denied, you have the option to appeal to the Assistant Superintendent of Business by submitting a written appeal within ten (10) school days of the initial denial. The Assistant Superintendent for Business will respond within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the written request for appeal. The decision of the Assistant Superintendent of Business is final and binding.

If you have any questions regarding the free and reduced-price meals or fee waiver request process, please call the school.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Collins

Principal