



## Maine South High School

1111 South Dee Road, Park Ridge, IL 60068-4379  
847.825.7711 | [www.south.maine207.org](http://www.south.maine207.org)

**DR. ANTWAN BABAKHANI**  
PRINCIPAL

**MRS. ERICA WAGNER**  
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL  
Teaching and Learning

**DR. IRIS SMITH**  
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL  
HR and Instructional Operations

**DR. JENNIFER SHERIDAN**  
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL  
Student and Family Services

**MR. MICHAEL EDWARDS**  
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL  
Student Experiences

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The purpose of this correspondence is to inform you of the school district's programs for free or reduced-price meals and waiver of school fees for the 2026-2027 school year. For those interested in applying for a fee waiver, applications **must** be submitted by Friday, July 31, 2026.

To apply for a fee waiver please provide the following:

- Fee Waiver Application (form is included)
- All 2025 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 current participation in TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); **OR**
- Evidence the student is a foster child.

**Fee Waiver applications may be filled out and emailed along with all required documents to [dmontanez@maine207.org](mailto:dmontanez@maine207.org), through Friday, July 31, 2026. If you want to drop off your documents in person, please note that materials must be dropped off in the main office at Maine South High School anytime Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** 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. Please note that **the District is no longer completing direct certification for fee waivers.**

**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." A school does not impose a "fee" when it requires a student to provide his/her own ordinary supplies or materials (pencil, paper, notebook)

**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, towels, 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;
- Charges to participate in extracurricular activities;
- A set of physical education uniforms and a lock are covered every other school year (ie. freshman and junior)
- Graduation fees;
- School records fees;
- Driver education fees assessed pursuant to Section 27-23 of the School Code;
- Identification badge fee.

**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, fine arts, or other school events;
- Personal items for athletic/intramural/extracurricular events such as athletic shoes, baseball gloves, etc.

## Fee Waiver Application | Frequently Asked Questions

**1. 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. 2025-2026).

**2. 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.

**3. 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. We will need evidence of current participation in TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The District is no longer completing direct certification for fee waivers.*

**4. I receive WIC. Can my student get free meals?**

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

**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. As each quarter of the school year passes, the percentage of the school fee that will be waived decreases by 25%.

**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. Income of all people living in your household should also be included in the application.

**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 2025 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 current 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 Deb Montanez at [dmontanez@maine207.org](mailto:dmontanez@maine207.org).

*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*

**I feel 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. Antwan Babakhani

**Maine Township High School District 207**  
**2026-27 FREE/REDUCED PRICE MEALS & FEE WAIVER**  
**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

To apply for free and reduced-price meal services and/or fee waiver, complete the application using these instructions. Sign the application and return to the school.

**1. APPLICANT INFORMATION** *All Households Complete Section (1).*

- A. Print the name or names of the child(ren) you are applying for.
- B. List each child's student ID number.
- C. TANF case number-if applicable. List a current TANF case number or SNAP number for each child. Attach a copy of TANF/SNAP card(s) to application. *Link card number cannot be used. Skip to (6).* **Please note that the State of Illinois no longer allows the District access to the Direct Certification System and all families on SNAP must complete the application to be eligible.**
- D. Check if the application is for a foster child. Attach a copy of the front and back of child's medical card. *Skip to (5).*

**2. HOMELESS, MIGRANT, RUNAWAY OR HEAD START** *(Categorically eligible)*

- A. Check box (if applicable) of student on application.
- B. Get corresponding signature. Go on to Section (5).

**3. TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

- A. Write the names of everyone in your household, whether they receive income or not. Include yourself, the children you are applying for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
- B. Fill in each person's total income and attach a copy of the most recent (2025) tax return - IRS Form 1040 and all W-2's/1099's for each household member where applicable. If there is no tax return, but the household member is employed, please state reason for no tax return. **Your application may be denied if you do not provide a copy of the 2025 tax return and all W-2's/1099's for each employed household member.**
- C. You must complete a **4506-T Request for Transcript of Tax Return Form** for each working household member that cannot provide a tax return. (1) Fill out the Student ID line at the top of the page. (2) Complete all items in Sections 1 through 4 as applicable. (3) Sign on the first signature line (only one signature is required); (4) date, (5) phone number.

**4. CHILDREN'S RACIAL AND ETHNIC IDENTITIES**

Answer these questions if you choose to. (Optional)

**5. SIGNATURE AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER** *All Households Complete This Part.*

- A. All applications must have the signature of an adult household member.
- B. The adult signing the form must also list the last four numbers of his/her social security number.
- C. If the adult does not have a social security number, mark the box indicating "I do not have a Social Security number."
- D. A social security number is not required if you are applying with a SNAP or TANF case number or if you are applying for a foster child.
- E. **If there is no social security number and the box indicating such is not checked; the application will be denied.**

**Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.** The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced-price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf on a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/program-discrimination-complaint-filing> from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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; or 2. Fax (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or 3. Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

1. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Use one Application for all students in your household per district. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to the school.
2. MY CHILD’S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR, DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE? Yes, your child’s application is only good for that school year. You must send in a new application even if you are receiving assistances from SNAP or TANF.
3. I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC MAY be eligible for free or reduced meals and a fee waiver. Please complete the application.
4. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced priced meals and a fee waiver.
5. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP, ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for SNAP, TANF or other assistance benefits, contact your local Department of Human Services office or call (800) 843-6154 (voice) or (800) 447-6404 (TTY).
6. I AM A SNAP RECIPIENT, BUT CANNOT LOCATE MY SNAP NOTICE OF DECISION LETTER. HOW CAN I GET A COPY OF THIS LETTER? You can email, call, or go in person to an Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Office and request a copy of your letter. Contact information and addresses for several locations can be found below. When contacting IDHS, you should request a “Proof of Receipt of Program Benefits.”

IL Department of Human Services West Suburban Office (229) Melrose Park, IL 60160 (708)338-7600	DHS Family Community Resource Center in Cook County - N. Suburban 3501 W. Algonquin Rd., 4th Floor Rolling Meadows, IL 60008 (847) 483-7171	State of Illinois Northern FCRC 8001 Lincoln Ave., 6th Floor Skokie, IL 60077 (847) 745-3200
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



**Maine Township High School District 207**  
**FREE/REDUCED PRICE MEALS AND FEE WAIVER**  
**2025-26 Income Eligibility Guidelines (Will be updated for 2026-27 in June)**

Income Eligibility Guidelines Effective from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026											
Household Size	Free Meals 130% Federal Poverty Guidelines					Household Size	Reduced Meals 185% Federal Poverty Guidelines				
	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly		Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	20,345	1,696	848	783	392	1	28,953	2,413	1,207	1,114	557
2	27,495	2,292	1,146	1,058	529	2	39,128	3,261	1,631	1,505	753
3	34,645	2,888	1,444	1,333	667	3	49,303	4,109	2,055	1,897	949
4	41,795	3,483	1,742	1,608	804	4	59,478	4,957	2,479	2,288	1,144
5	48,945	4,079	2,040	1,883	942	5	69,653	5,805	2,903	2,679	1,340
6	56,095	4,675	2,338	2,158	1,079	6	79,828	6,653	3,327	3,071	1,536
7	63,245	5,271	2,636	2,433	1,217	7	90,003	7,501	3,751	3,462	1,731
8	70,395	5,867	2,934	2,708	1,354	8	100,178	8,349	4,175	3,853	1,927
For each additional family member, add	7,150	596	298	275	138	For each additional family member, add	10,175	848	424	392	196

The following is the definition of income: **Income is defined as any monies earned before any deductions such as income taxes, social security taxes, insurance premiums, charitable contributions and bonds. It includes the following:**

- Monetary compensation for services includes wages, salary commissions, or fees;
- Net income from non-farm self-employment;
- Net income from farm self-employment;
- Social security;
- Dividends or interest on savings or bonds or income from estates or trusts;
- Net rental income;
- Public assistance or welfare payments;
- Unemployment compensation;
- Government civilian employee or military retirement or pensions or veteran payments;
- Private pensions or annuities;
- Alimony or child support payments;
- Regular contributions from persons not living in the household;
- Net royalties;
- Other cash income – Other cash income would include cash amounts received or withdrawn from any source including savings, investments, trust accounts, and other resources which would be available to pay the price of a child's meal.