

This program is only for those families NOT already receiving free/reduced lunch assistance.



SCHOOL MEAL SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2025-2026

One *CONFIDENTIAL* application per household.

Adult head of household name _____ Date _____

Total number of people in household _____

(Household includes each person living in your household, related or not. This includes adults and children.)

Part 1 - Children in T/E Schools

Names of children in T/E Schools	School	Grade

Part 2 – You **MUST** initial **each** line to certify agreement that **at the current time** the following are true:

____ I certify that my household **has applied for and been denied** funding from the free and reduced school meal program.

____ I certify that my household receives no extra school lunch funding from a foster or welfare agency.

____ I certify that none of my children have a negative balance of more than \$40 in their point-of-sale account.

____ I certify that each adult in my household is working, is actively seeking paid employment, and/or receives SSD.

____ I certify that my household total gross monthly income does not exceed the amount in the chart below next to the number of people in my household. (I have already contacted T&E Care and received approval if I qualify for an exception.)

I understand that I must agree to ALL 5 of the above criteria to apply for this program.

Income Eligibility for T&E Care School Meal Assistance Program (MONTHLY INCOME)

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Monthly Gross Income Cap</u>	Note: (calculated at up to 300% of 2023 federal poverty level) “Gross income” is the amount earned by all adult members in the household before taxes and other deductions. It includes money earned from welfare, unemployment, child support, alimony, social security, pensions, retirement, disability, rental income and any other income. If you make UNDER this cap – you child(ren) may qualify for assistance for through this program.
2	\$5,288	
3	\$6,663	
4	\$8,038	
5+	\$9,413	

I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true. I understand that school officials may confirm the accuracy of the information. I understand that if I purposely give false information, my children will be immediately removed from this program, and any funds received will have to be repaid.

(Head of household) Sign here _____ Print name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Applications should be given to your child's counselor who will notify you if your application is approved. Applications can be submitted anytime throughout the year, starting August 20.

(If you have students in multiple schools – pick just one of the counselors/administrators.)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

For the 2025/2026 school year only students who qualify for the government Free/Reduced Program will get their lunches at the F/R discounted price. All others will be required to pay full price for lunch. Tredyffrin & Easttown Care is a local non-profit that helps families in our community in a variety of ways when emergencies occur or situations become complicated. T&E Care recognizes that school meals can be difficult for some families to afford on a regular basis, especially if their income is just over the F/R Program's limits. T&E Care has a program that can provide a limited subsidy for these expenses for qualifying students.

Who will qualify? You *must FIRST have applied for and been **denied*** participation in the Free/Reduced Program run through the school district before applying for the T&E Care program. Students will be eligible for our program based on household income (see application for income guidelines). The T&E Care program is set to be a transition for families making just too much money to qualify for free/reduced assistance. The Free/Reduced Program application is on the TESD website (www.tesd.net) – under Departments, Food & Nutrition Services.

Why must I first apply to the Free/Reduced Program before applying for the T&E Care program? If you qualify for the Free/Reduced Program, it offers better assistance for your child's meals, plus additional options for assistance for your child at school (dental assistance, field trip waivers, test application waivers, etc.). If you can qualify for that program – it is better for your child(ren). More information available at www.tecare.org/assistance/schoollunches.

How do I apply for the T&E Care Program? You must complete the attached confidential application and give it to a counselor. The application can also be found on the TESD or the T&E Care websites.

Is there a deadline? Applications can be submitted anytime during the school year (after August 20).

How is income confirmed? The head of the household must certify with a signature that he/she is in compliance with the income guidelines described on the application. If you need an exception to these criteria – please contact us at lunchhelp@tecare.org.

How will my child(ren) receive the benefit? For the 2025/2026 year, qualified elementary students will receive \$40/month, middle school students will receive \$50/month, and CHS students will receive \$60/month. (An exception is made in June when less than the full amount may be paid to all students.) These deposits will be automatically placed into the child's point-of-sale account during the first week of each month.

Will my child receive the money each month? If your child does not use the funds over a few months and a positive balance starts to build up, then the funds will not be added until we see that the child is back to buying meals again.

What is the source of funding for T&E Care's program? Most of the funding comes from donations from community members who recognize the importance of healthy meals for all children.

Who will know that my child is getting this assistance? The food service department will know, your child's counselor and principal may know, and the T&E Care Board will know. That's it, unless you tell people. We totally understand the need for privacy in this type of request.

Can the money be used for breakfast or lunch? The funds can be used for any food offered through the food services department – it's up to you and your child.

Where should the application be submitted? Applications should be given to your child's counselor, who will notify you if your application is approved. If you have more than one child (and/or more than one counselor) – just choose any one of the counselors. (One application per household.)