2021-22 Application for Free and Reduced-price School Meals

Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

Apply online at **www.amityregion5.org**
Application No: _____

STEP 1 — List ALL Household Members who are infants, children and students up to and including grade 12. (If more spaces are required for additional names, attach another sheet of paper.)

Definition of **Household Member**: "Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related."

Children in **Foster care** and children who meet the definition of **Homeless** or **Runaway** are eligible for free meals. Read **How to Apply for Free and Reduced-price School Meals** for more information.

Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	School	Grade	Student? Yes	Student? No	Check all that apply: Foster	Head Start	Homeless or Runaway
							☐	☐	☐
							☐	☐	☐
							☐	☐	☐
							☐	☐	☐
							☐	☐	☐

STEP 2 — Do any household members (including you) currently participate in one or more of the following Assistance Programs – SNAP or TFA? (This does NOT include medical (HUSKY) benefits).

If NO, > Go to STEP 3

If YES, a household member does participate in SNAP or TFA, write a SNAP OR TFA case number here and then go to STEP 4 (*Do not complete STEP 3.) To quicken the approval process, it is strongly recommended that you submit proof of SNAP or TFA eligibility with this application. See instructions.*

[redacted]

Write only one case number in this space.

STEP 3 — Report Income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered "Yes" to Step 2)

Are you unsure what income to include here?

[redacted]

Flip the page and review the charts titled "Sources of Income" for more information.

The "Sources of Income for Children" chart will help you with the Child Income section.

The "Sources of Income for Adults" chart will help you with the All Adult Household Members section.

[redacted]

Child income: $ _____ How often? Weekly ○ Bi-Weekly ○ 2x Month ○ Monthly ○ Annual ○

B. All Adult Household Members (including yourself)

List all Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) **even if they do not receive income**. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report **total gross income** (before taxes) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of Adult Household Members (First & Last Name)	Earnings from Work $	How often? Weekly ○ Bi-Weekly ○ 2x Month ○ Monthly ○ Annual ○	Public Assistance/ Child Support/Alimony $	How often? Weekly ○ Bi-Weekly ○ 2x Month ○ Monthly ○ Annual ○	Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income $	How often? Weekly ○ Bi-Weekly ○ 2x Month ○ Monthly ○ Annual ○
	$		$		$	
	$		$		$	
	$		$		$	
	$		$		$	
	$		$		$	

Total Household Members (Children and Adults – Step 1 & Step 3) ☐☐

Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (SSN) of Primary Wage Earner or Other Adult Household Member X X X X X ☐☐☐☐ **Check if no SSN** ☐

Contact Information and Adult Signature. Mail completed form to Amity Regional School District No. 5, Attn: Kathleen Kovalik, 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525

"I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."

Street Address (if available) _____ Apt # _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone and Email (optional) _____

Printed name of adult signing the form _____ Signature of adult _____ Today's date _____

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Sources of Income for Children		Sources of Income for Adults		
Sources of Child Income	**Examples**	**Earnings from Work**	**Public Assistance/Alimony/ Child Support**	**Pensions/Retirement/ All Other Income**
Earnings from work	A child has a regular or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages	• Gross income for salary, wages, cash -- bonuses • Net income from self-employment (farm or business) **If you are in the U.S. Military:** • Basic pay and cash bonuses (*do NOT include combat pay, FSSA or privatized housing allowances*) • Allowances for off-base housing, food and clothing	• Unemployment benefits • Worker's compensation • Supplemental Security Income (SSI) • Cash assistance from state or local government • Alimony payments • Child support payments • Veteran's benefits • Strike benefits	• Social Security (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) • Private pensions or disability • Regular Income from trusts or estates • Annuities • Investment income • Earned Interest • Rental income • Regular cash payments from outside household
Social Security • Disability Payments • Survivor's Benefits	A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives social security benefits			
Income from persons **outside** the household	A friend or extended family member **regularly** gives a child spending money			
Income from any other source	A child receives income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust			

OPTIONAL Children's Racial and Ethnic Identities

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

Ethnicity (check one): ❑ Hispanic or Latino ❑ Not Hispanic or Latino

Race (check one or more): ❑ American Indian or Alaskan Native ❑ Asian ❑ Black or African American ❑ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ❑ White

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 of 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, 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, 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:

mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

fax: (202) 690-7442; or

email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

School Use Only – Do Not Write Below This Line

The Determining Official (DO) for the school/district MUST complete this section. ***(Only convert to annual income if there are different frequencies of income listed in Step 3.)***

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly X 52 ◆ Every 2 weeks X 26 ◆ Twice a Month X 24 ◆ Monthly X 12

Directly Certified (DC) **based on the State DC List** as eligible for: ❑ SNAP ❑ TFA ❑ OT ❑ **FM** (Free Medicaid) ❑ **RM** (Reduced Medicaid). Date Certified on DC List: _____

❑ SNAP/TFA Household providing proof (must be confirmed by DO) of a handwritten case number ❑ Foster Child ❑ Head Start ❑ **Confirmed** Homeless or Runaway

❑ Income Household: Total household income: _____ per _____ Household Size: _____ ***ERROR PRONE?*** ❑ YES ❑ NO

Application approved for: ❑ Free Meals ❑ Reduced-price Meals ❑ Application Denied

Date Notice Sent: _____ Signature of DO: _____ Date: _____

How to Apply for Free and Reduced-price School Meals

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free or reduced-price school meals. You only need to submit one application per household, *even if your children attend more than one school Amity Regional School District No. 5.* The application must be filled out completely to certify your children for free or reduced-price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on the application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact Kathleen Kovalik at (203) 397-4801 or kathleen.kovalik@amityregion5.org.

PLEASE USE A PEN (NOT A PENCIL) WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION AND DO YOUR BEST TO PRINT CLEARLY.

Step 1: List all household members who are infants, children, and students up to and including grade 12

Tell us how many infants, children, and school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here? When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a foster arrangement, or qualify as homeless or runaway youth;
- Students attending Amity Regional School District No. 5, *regardless of age.*

A) List each child's name.	B) Is the child a student in the district?	C) Do you have any foster children?	D) Are any children homeless, runaway or in a Head Start Program?
Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. When printing names, please print clearly. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper with all required information for the additional children.	List the name of the school, the grade and mark "Yes" or "No" under the column titled "Student" to tell us which children attend school in the district. If you marked "Yes," write the grade level of the student in the "Grade" column.	If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. If you are ONLY applying for foster children, after finishing **STEP 1**, go to **STEP 4**. *Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application*. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to step 3.	If you believe any child listed in this section meets this description, mark the "Head Start or Homeless/Runaway" box next to the child's name and *complete all steps of the application.*

Step 2: Do any household members currently participate in SNAP or TFA?

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Family Assistance (TFA)

A) If no one in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

- Leave **STEP 2** blank and go to **STEP 3.**

B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

- Write a case number for SNAP or TFA. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact your DSS social worker.

Note: Do not use a HUSKY Medical Benefits number since this number is not a SNAP or TFA case number. It is also recommended (but not required) that you submit proof of this SNAP or TFA case number when you submit the application for processing. Proof does NOT include a copy of the CONNECT card.

- Go to **STEP 4**.

Step 3: Report income for all household members

How do I report my income?

- Use the charts titled **"Sources of Income for Children"** and **"Sources of Income for Adult,"** printed on the back side of the application form, to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
  - Gross income is the total income received before taxes.
  - Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total "gross" amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.
- Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.

3.A. Report income earned by children

A) **Report all income earned or received by children.** Report the combined gross income for ALL children listed in STEP 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household.

What is Child Income? Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do not have any child income.

3.B. Report income earned by adults

Who should I list here?

- When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, *even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.*
- ***Do NOT include:***
  - People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household.
  - Infants, children and students already listed in **STEP 1.**

B) List adult household members' names. Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." *Do not list any household members you listed in **STEP 1**.* If a child listed in **STEP 1** has income, follow the instructions in **STEP 3, part A.**	**C) Report earnings from work.** Report all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income. ***What if I am self-employed?*** Report income from that work as a net amount. This is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts or revenue.	**D) Report income from public assistance/child support/alimony.** Report all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. *Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart.* If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.
E) Report income from pensions/retirement/all other income. Report all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income" field on the application.	**F) Report total household size.** Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in **STEP 1** and **STEP 3**. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced-price meals.	**G) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number.** An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no SSN."

Step 4: Contact information and adult signature

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the privacy and civil rights statements on the back of the application.

A) Provide your contact information. Write your current address in the fields provided if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, this does not make your children ineligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.	**B) Print and sign your name and write today's date.** Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."	**C) Mail completed form to Amity Regional School District No. 5, Attn: Kathleen Kovalik, 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525.**	**D) Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional).** On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals.