

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to:

Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy
Attn: Business Office
1500 Sullivan Rd.
Aurora, IL. 60506

Your children may qualify for reduced student fees if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

Free Meals (IMSA Tier-1) 130% Federal Poverty Guideline					Household Size	Reduced-Price Meals (IMSA Tier-2) 185% Federal Poverty Guideline				
Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly		Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
\$14,521	\$1,211	\$606	\$559	\$280	1	\$20,665	\$1,723	\$862	\$795	\$398
\$19,669	\$1,640	\$820	\$757	\$379	2	\$27,991	\$2,333	\$1,167	\$1,077	\$539
\$24,817	\$2,069	\$1,035	\$955	\$478	3	\$35,317	\$2,944	\$1,472	\$1,359	\$680
\$29,965	\$2,498	\$1,249	\$1,153	\$577	4	\$42,643	\$3,554	\$1,777	\$1,641	\$821
\$35,113	\$2,927	\$1,464	\$1,351	\$676	5	\$49,969	\$4,165	\$2,083	\$1,922	\$961
\$40,261	\$3,356	\$1,678	\$1,549	\$775	6	\$57,295	\$4,775	\$2,388	\$2,204	\$1,102
\$45,409	\$3,785	\$1,893	\$1,747	\$874	7	\$64,621	\$5,386	\$2,693	\$2,486	\$1,243
\$50,557	\$4,214	\$2,107	\$1,945	\$973	8	\$71,947	\$5,996	\$2,998	\$2,768	\$1,384
\$5,148	\$429	\$215	\$198	\$99	For Each additional family member	\$7,326	\$611	\$306	\$282	\$141

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: (1) monetary compensation for services including wages, salary, commissions, or fees; (2) net income from non-farm self-employment; (3) net income from farm self-employment; (4) social security; (5) dividends or interest on savings or bonds or income from estates or trusts; (6) net rental income; (7) public assistance or welfare payments; (8) unemployment compensation; (9) government civilian employee or military retirement or pensions or veteran payments; (10) private pensions or annuities; (11) alimony or child support payments; (12) regular contributions from persons not living in the household; (13) net royalties; and (14) 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 Other cash income would include cash amounts received or withdrawn from any source including savings, investments, trust accounts, and other resources which would be available to pay the price of a child's meal.

- DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. *Use one Household Eligibility 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.
- I DON'T QUALIFY FOR THE FEDERAL GUIDELINES. IS IT WORTH SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION?** YES. You may not qualify for the federal government guidelines, but IMSA does offer fee reductions based on total household income.
- A MEMBER OF MY HOUSEHOLD RECEIVED SNAP OR TANF BENEFITS. THE SCHOOL SENT A LETTER STATING THAT MY CHILD IS AUTOMATICALLY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS BASED ON DIRECT CERTIFICATION. DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING MORE TO ENSURE THAT MY CHILD RECEIVES FREE MEALS?** No. You do not need to do anything more to receive free meals for your child. If you have students not listed on the letter, contact the school immediately. If you do not wish to receive the free meals, you should follow the steps outlined in the letter from the school to notify school personnel immediately.
- 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 unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.
- WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof.
- IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?** Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
- WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to the person listed above.
- 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 U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
- 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) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.
- WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
- WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS INCOME?** If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
- MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS HER COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME?** No, if the combat pay is received in addition to her basic pay because of her deployment and it wasn't received before she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.
- 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).