

2025-2026 Public Media Release for Universal Meals

Manzanita Public Charter School announces its policy to serve nutritious meals every school day under the National School Lunch Program and, School Breakfast Program. Breakfasts and lunches will be served free of charge every school day, but Manzanita Public Charter School is still required to make eligibility determinations for free and reduced-price meals. Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, children are considered eligible for free or reduced-price meals if the household income is less than or equal to the federal guidelines.

| Free Eligibility Scale Meals, Snacks, and Milk | | | | | | Reduced-price Eligibility Scale Meals and Snacks | | | | | |
|--|----------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|--|-----------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|
| Household Size | Annual | Monthly | Twice Per Month | Every Two Weeks | Weekly | Household Size | 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: | | | | | | For each additional family member, add: | | | | | |
| | \$7,150 | \$596 | \$298 | \$275 | \$138 | | \$10,175 | \$848 | \$424 | \$392 | \$196 |

Households do not need to turn in an application when the household receives a notification letter saying that all children automatically qualify for free meals when any household member receives benefits from CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR. Children who meet the definition of foster, homeless, migrant, or runaway, and children enrolled in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals. Contact school officials if any child in the household is not on the notification letter. The household must let school officials know if they do not want to be considered eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Applications will be sent to the household with a letter about the school meal program. While breakfasts and lunches will be provided free of charge every school day, determining eligibility for free and reduced-price meals is still necessary and these determinations can be used to qualify households for other benefits. Households interesting in establishing eligibility for meal benefits, must fill out one application

for all children in the household and give it to the nutrition office at 991 Mountain View Blvd. Vandenberg Space Force Base, CA. 93437. For a simple and secure method to apply, use our online application at www.manzanitacharterschool.com. Contact Tiffany Cole at 805-734-5600 ext. 350 for help filling out the application. The school will provide notification regarding the outcome of your applications.

Households may turn in an application at any time during the school year. If you are not eligible now, but your household income goes down, household size goes up, or a household member starts receiving CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR, you may turn in an application at that time. Information given on the application will be used to determine eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school officials. The last four digits of the Social Security number from any adult household or checking that you do not have a Social Security number is required if you include income on the application.

Households that receive Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits, may be considered eligible for free or reduced-price meals by filling out an application.

Foster children are considered eligible for free meals and may be included as a household member if the foster family chooses to also apply for the non-foster children on the same application. Including foster children as a household member may help

the non-foster children qualify for free or reduced-price meals. If the non-foster children are not eligible, this does not keep foster children from being considered eligible for free meals.

Your child's eligibility status from last school year will continue into the new school year for up to 30 school days or until the school processes your new application, or your child is otherwise certified for free or reduced-price meals. School officials do not have to send reminder or expired eligibility notices.

If you do not agree with the decision or results of verification, you may discuss it with school officials. You also have the right to a fair hearing, which may be requested by calling or writing the hearing official: Suzanne Nicastro, 991 Mountain View Blvd. Vandenberg Space Force Base, CA. 93437 or 805-734-5600.

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1. mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax:
202-690-7442; or
3. email:
Program.Intake@usda.gov.

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