



tredyffrin & easttown CARE

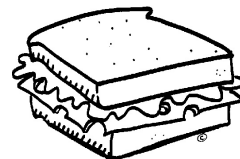
SCHOOL MEAL SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2020/2021

Tredyffrin & Easttown Care is a local non-profit that helps families in our community in a variety of ways, not just with school supplies. Because we know effective learning is best done on a full stomach, T&E Care also supports families in the T/E School District who meet certain income criteria with a school meal assistance program.

If your family could use a little extra help with breakfast and/or lunch assistance, then first apply for the federally funded free/reduced program. If you are denied that assistance (which is better than ours!), you should receive a copy of our application from the food service department. If you don't receive that application, please download one from the T&E Care website or contact your child's counselor for a copy. There are more details provided in the FAQ below.

<http://www.tecare.org/needs-assistance/school-meal-assistance/>

FAQ about the program:



How do I qualify? You **must FIRST have applied for and been denied** participation in the federally funded free/reduced program run through the school district before applying for this program. Students will be eligible based on household income. The T&E Care program is meant to be a transition for families making just "too much money" to qualify for free/reduced assistance. See income guidelines on application. To find the application for free/reduced lunch go to the T/ESD website – **www.tesd.net** (go to the food/nutrition department link).

How do I apply for the T&E Care program? You must complete the short, confidential T&E Care application and give it to a counselor or school administrator. Our application is on the TESD website as well (and our own website). The counselor/administrator will notify the food services department and have your child's name added to the list. This should not take more than a day or two.

Do I have to reapply if my child was in this program last year? Yes. And again you must reapply for free/reduced lunch first, then once denied you must reapply for our program. We do this because sometimes a family's criteria changes and they actually ARE qualified for free/reduced lunch (which is a better option!)

Is there a deadline? Applications for our program can be submitted anytime throughout the school year (starting 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 T&E Care application. If you feel you need an exception to these criteria – please contact us at lunchhelp@tecare.org.

How will my child(ren) receive the benefit? A minimum of \$35 will be deposited into each eligible child's point-of-sale account. These deposits will be made during the first week of each month.

Could the monthly benefit be more than \$35? The plan for the 2020/2021 year is that the elementary students will get \$35/month, middle school students will get \$45/month, and CHS students will get \$55/month. (An exception is made in June when less than the full amount may be paid).

Will my child get 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.

Can the money be used for breakfast or lunch? The money is put into your child's account to use as he/she wishes.

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

Why must I first apply to the free/reduced school program before applying for the T&E Care program? If you can qualify for the free/reduced program, it offers you better assistance for your child's meals, plus additional options for assistance for your child at school (dental assistance, field trip waivers, college test and application waivers, etc.). If you can qualify for that program – it is better for your child(ren).

What is the source of funding for this program? Most of the funding comes from donations from community members who recognize the importance of healthy meals for all children. When such donations are made they go directly to the general fund for T&E Care, not to specific individual 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 a couple of T&E Care folks who have to process the payments will know. That's it, unless you tell people. We totally understand the need for privacy in this type of request.