

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

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August 17, 2026

Dear Parents,

Our delicious and nutritious hot lunch program is back!! The menu is prepared in our kitchen using locally sourced and healthy ingredients. Bnos Yisroel offers delicious, varied, and healthy meals every school day. **Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals.**

Bnos Yisroel participates in the National School Lunch program. The program requires us to meet strict National nutritional guidelines. Income-eligible families will be provided lunch free of charge. Below are common questions and answers to assist you with the application process.

If you have received a NOTICE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE MEALS, do NOT complete the application.

What grades will participate in the BNY HOT LUNCH PROGRAM?

The program will be available for students in grades **K-12**.

What kind of food will be served?

Our healthy, well-balanced menu includes whole grains and a variety of fruits and vegetables. We encourage your children to build a healthy plate – to fill half the lunch tray with fruits and vegetables, select whole grains, and choose fat-free or low-fat milk. We hope that you will also encourage your child to make these healthy eating choices. All food will be *Cholov Yisroel*, and there will be Yashon and Pas Yisroel options.

How often will hot lunch be served?

Hot lunch will be served four times a week, **Mondays through Thursdays**, starting the first day of school, September 3, and continuing until June 17th, the last day of school.

How much will the Hot Lunch Program cost?

The annual charge per child for daily lunch is **\$650**. We will allow sign-up for one day a week at the rate of **\$180 per day**. The daily menu items are **Pizza** (This year the pizza will be either pizza bagels or a pizza item made fresh in our kitchen), **Soup and Surprise** (falafel, poke bowl, fish sticks), **Pasta**, and **Salad Bar**. For income-eligible families, there is no charge for hot lunch.

When and how do I pay? All registration and payment will be completed via **Parent Locker**.

What do I do if I have questions or I am unsure if I qualify for free or reduced meals? For any questions about the program, please email hotlunch@bnosyisroel.org

Do I need to fill out an application for each child? No. Use one Meal Benefit Application for **all students in your household**. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: Bnos Yisroel, 6300 Park Heights Ave, Baltimore, MD 21215

Who can get free meals? All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), foster children, children certified as homeless, runaway, migrant, Head Start, Early Head Start, and Even Start are eligible for free meals. Additionally, children who receive Medicaid and have been determined in the Maryland Direct Certification System to meet Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines are eligible to receive free meals. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.

I COMPLETED AN APPLICATION LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE? Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year.

I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please send in an application.

Will the information I give be checked? Yes, and 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 or 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: Ahuvah Heyman, 6300 Park Heights Ave, Baltimore, MD 21215

May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your children 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, foster children, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all the 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 REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.

My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for? To find out how to apply for SNAP, TCA, and medical assistance programs or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-332-6347.

FEDERAL INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Household Size	Year	Month	Week
1	\$29,526	\$2,461	\$568
2	40,034	3,337	770
3	50,542	4,212	972
4	61,050	5,088	1,175
5	71,558	5,964	1,377
6	82,066	6,839	1,579
7	92,574	7,715	1,781
8	103,082	8,591	1,983
For each additional family member, add:	\$10,508	\$876	\$203

If you have other questions or need help, email [**hotlunch@bnosyisroel.org**](mailto:hotlunch@bnosyisroel.org) or call 443-524-3200

Looking forward to another wonderful and healthy school year,



Ahuvah Heyman, School Director