



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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Oak Park School District 97 Important Fee Information 2026-2027

August 2026,

Please Read Carefully:

All families with students attending Oak Park School District 97 are required to pay the appropriate school fees for their children. The fees for elementary (grades K-5) \$180.00 and Middle School (6-8) is \$225.00. Lunch prices for the 2026-2027 school year are \$3.55 for elementary students and \$3.85 for middle school students. Please be advised that Medicaid and TANF cards **DO NOT** automatically qualify a student for free fees or lunch.

If you are a new family or if your family is in financial need:

You may be eligible for the Federal free or reduced meals program as well as waived schools' fees; however, you must **immediately** submit the household eligibility application. The application can be returned to your child's school or the District Office. You can also fill out the application online using our online system **MealtimeApps.com**. Until you receive notice via letter from the District Office stating otherwise (10-day turnaround time), **you are responsible for your child's meal payment and school fees.**

If you are a returning family with a free or reduced application granted in 2025-2026 and has not received a Direct Certification letter from District 97 for school year 2026-2027:

You must submit a **NEW**, updated household eligibility application immediately which must be re-approved by September 30, 2026 to continue your application coverage. You will only receive an approval letter from the District Office, which will be emailed to the email address the District Office has on file.

If an updated free or reduced application is NOT received and approved by September 30, 2026, your status will revert to full fees and meals on October 1, 2026.

Please fill out application completely. any applications received incomplete will be rejected.

Therefore, you are encouraged to submit a new free or reduced application prior to September 30, 2026 as there is a 10-day turnaround period from receipt of application.

Sincerely,

Carla Ellis
Food and Sustainability Manager
Oak Park Elementary School District 97

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Oak Park School District 97** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **\$1.85**; lunch costs **\$3.55/\$3.85**. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is **\$.30** for breakfast and **\$.40** for lunch. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, use the Household Eligibility Application, which is enclosed. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to your child's school or the District Office.

Your child(ren) may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

FISCAL YEAR 2027 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines Effective from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027					
	Reduced-Priced Meals 185% Federal Poverty Guidelines				
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	29,526	2,461	1,231	1,136	568
2	40,034	3,337	1,669	1,540	770
3	50,542	4,212	2,106	1,944	972
4	61,050	5,088	2,544	2,349	1,175
5	71,558	5,964	2,982	2,753	1,377
6	82,066	6,839	3,420	3,157	1,579
7	92,574	7,715	3,858	3,561	1,781
8	103,082	8,591	4,296	3,965	1,983
For each additional family member, add	10,508	876	438	405	203

The following is the definition of income:

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.