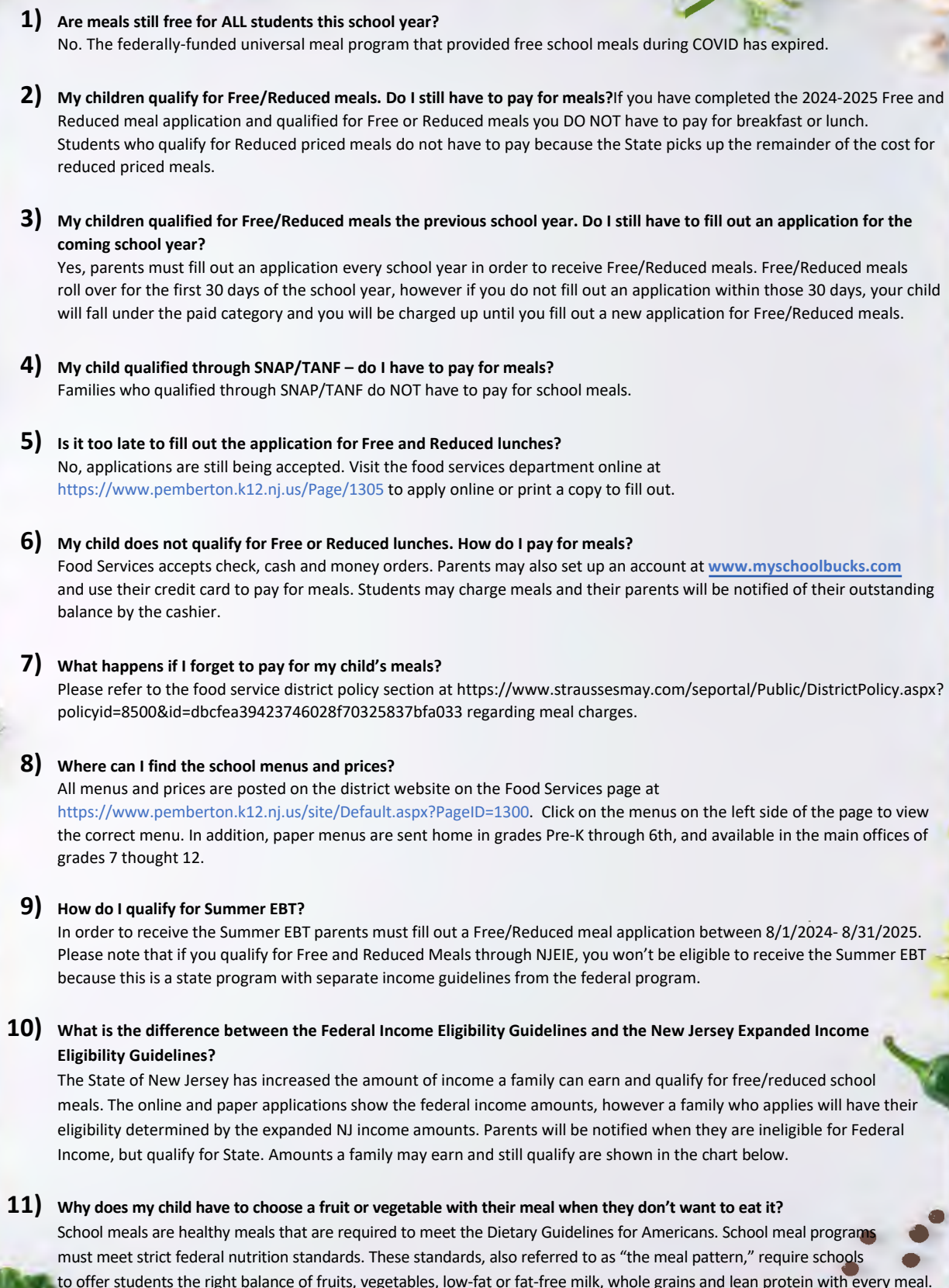


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- 1) Are meals still free for ALL students this school year?**  
No. The federally-funded universal meal program that provided free school meals during COVID has expired.
  - 2) My children qualify for Free/Reduced meals. Do I still have to pay for meals?** If you have completed the 2024-2025 Free and Reduced meal application and qualified for Free or Reduced meals you DO NOT have to pay for breakfast or lunch. Students who qualify for Reduced priced meals do not have to pay because the State picks up the remainder of the cost for reduced priced meals.
  - 3) My children qualified for Free/Reduced meals the previous school year. Do I still have to fill out an application for the coming school year?**  
Yes, parents must fill out an application every school year in order to receive Free/Reduced meals. Free/Reduced meals roll over for the first 30 days of the school year, however if you do not fill out an application within those 30 days, your child will fall under the paid category and you will be charged up until you fill out a new application for Free/Reduced meals.
  - 4) My child qualified through SNAP/TANF – do I have to pay for meals?**  
Families who qualified through SNAP/TANF do NOT have to pay for school meals.
  - 5) Is it too late to fill out the application for Free and Reduced lunches?**  
No, applications are still being accepted. Visit the food services department online at <https://www.pemberton.k12.nj.us/Page/1305> to apply online or print a copy to fill out.
  - 6) My child does not qualify for Free or Reduced lunches. How do I pay for meals?**  
Food Services accepts check, cash and money orders. Parents may also set up an account at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) and use their credit card to pay for meals. Students may charge meals and their parents will be notified of their outstanding balance by the cashier.
  - 7) What happens if I forget to pay for my child's meals?**  
Please refer to the food service district policy section at <https://www.straussesmay.com/seportal/Public/DistrictPolicy.aspx?policyid=8500&id=dbcfea39423746028f70325837bfa033> regarding meal charges.
  - 8) Where can I find the school menus and prices?**  
All menus and prices are posted on the district website on the Food Services page at <https://www.pemberton.k12.nj.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=1300>. Click on the menus on the left side of the page to view the correct menu. In addition, paper menus are sent home in grades Pre-K through 6th, and available in the main offices of grades 7 through 12.
  - 9) How do I qualify for Summer EBT?**  
In order to receive the Summer EBT parents must fill out a Free/Reduced meal application between 8/1/2024- 8/31/2025. Please note that if you qualify for Free and Reduced Meals through NJEIE, you won't be eligible to receive the Summer EBT because this is a state program with separate income guidelines from the federal program.
  - 10) What is the difference between the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines and the New Jersey Expanded Income Eligibility Guidelines?**  
The State of New Jersey has increased the amount of income a family can earn and qualify for free/reduced school meals. The online and paper applications show the federal income amounts, however a family who applies will have their eligibility determined by the expanded NJ income amounts. Parents will be notified when they are ineligible for Federal Income, but qualify for State. Amounts a family may earn and still qualify are shown in the chart below.
  - 11) Why does my child have to choose a fruit or vegetable with their meal when they don't want to eat it?**  
School meals are healthy meals that are required to meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. School meal programs must meet strict federal nutrition standards. These standards, also referred to as "the meal pattern," require schools to offer students the right balance of fruits, vegetables, low-fat or fat-free milk, whole grains and lean protein with every meal.

## ***New Jersey Expanded Income Guideline (EIG)***

New Jersey participants qualify for meals at no charge if the household income falls at or below the limits on this chart and above the limits on the Federal Reduced Price Meal chart.

<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Twice Per Month</b>	<b>Every Two Weeks</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
- 1 -	33,735	2,812	1,406	1,298	649
- 2 -	45,786	3,816	1,908	1,761	881
- 3 -	57,837	4,820	2,410	2,225	1,113
- 4 -	69,888	5,824	2,912	2,688	1,344
- 5 -	81,940	6,829	3,415	3,152	1,576
- 6 -	93,991	7,833	3,917	3,616	1,808
- 7 -	106,042	8,837	4,419	4,079	2,040
- 8 -	118,093	9,842	4,921	4,543	2,272
Each add'l household member	12,052	1,005	503	464	232

***Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 weeks x 26, Twice a month x 24, and Monthly x 12***