

Free School Meal Changes from 1st September 2026

Find out if your child will be entitled to free school meals under the new criteria!

Please apply from 1st August 2026 and by 1st September 2026

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/school-life/free-school-meals/>

Expanding free school meals: what parents need to know

[mediaofficer](#), 4 June 2025 - [Free School Meals](#), [School food](#), [Schools](#), [Universal Credit](#)



Free [school](#) meals provide vital nutrition for children during the school day. We've just announced that many more families will be eligible. Here's what parents need to know.

Who will benefit from the expanded free school meals?

Over half a million additional pupils will become eligible for Free School Meals under the new eligibility criteria. The change means that all households receiving [Universal Credit](#), above the current £7,400 income cap, will qualify for this support.