



OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF BUILDING TORAH

TALMUDICAL ACADEMY OF BALTIMORE
 4445 OLD COURT ROAD / BALTIMORE, MD 21208
 P 410.484.6600 F 410.484.5717
 TALMUDICALACADEMY.ORG
 TA@TALMUDICALACADEMY.ORG

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Dear Parents,

We are pleased to advise that we will be continuing our successful **Hot Lunch Program** for the 2019-2020 school year. This letter will answer many questions and provide specific details on how to register for the program. Please note that to ensure your child receives hot lunch on the first day of school your hot lunch order must be submitted **prior to Monday, August 19, 2019**. Any order submitted after that day may result in a delay in the start of your child's participation in the hot lunch program.

What is the hot lunch program? A Federally Subsidized Hot Lunch Program that will bring quality, nutritious meals directly to your child's school. Qualification, which is based on household income, may entitle your child to a free or reduced-price hot lunch. Students who do not qualify for the government subsidy will still be able to purchase hot lunches at the full price.

What grades will participate? The program will be available for students in grades 1-12.

What kind of food will be served? We will be following federal guidelines enacted to ensure healthy eating habits. Please note that we will not be serving second helpings. All food will be *Cholov Yisroel* and are prepared fresh at the Yeshiva daily. In the coming weeks, you will find a September hot lunch menu on our website, <http://talmudicalacademy.org/parent-resources/food-menus/>.

How often will hot lunch be served? Hot lunches will be served four times a week, **Monday thru Thursday**, starting the first day of school and continuing until the last full day of school.

Can I sign up once a week? Once a month? When my child likes the food? To participate in the program, you must sign up for all lunch days. However, if you miss the sign-up period at the beginning of the year, feel free to contact Mrs. Batsheva Berger at 410-484-6600 x7327 or bberger@talmudicalacademy.org for information on how to enroll.

How do I know if I am eligible for free meals? All children in households receiving benefits from Food Supplement Program or Temporary Cash Assistance Program, can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines (see below).

Who can get reduced price meals? Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Eligibility Income Chart, shown on this application.

Will the information I give be checked? Yes, and we may also ask you to send written proof.

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.

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, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and *all* 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.

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 and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Household Size	Eligible for Free Meals	Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals
1	\$16,237	\$23,107
2	21,983	31,284
3	27,729	39,461
4	33,475	47,638
5	39,221	55,815
6	44,967	63,992
7	50,713	72,169
8	56,459	80,346
For each additional family member, add...	\$5,746	\$8,177

Reminder:

- All requests for eligibility will be kept confidential.
- You may be required to present proof of eligibility at any time during the school year
- You may re-apply during the course of the year, should your financial circumstances change

For further information please refer to the [MBA instruction sheet](#).

How much will the Hot Lunch Program cost?

The annual charge per child is listed in the charts below. Larger portions, salad and fresh fruit are served daily to the Middle and High School students.

Annual Hot Lunch Meal Charge for Elementary School Student (grades 1-5)

Free	Reduced	Full Pay
\$0.00	\$40.50	\$550.00

Annual Hot Lunch Meal Charge for Middle School Student (grades 6-8)

Free	Reduced	Full Pay
\$0.00	\$39.90	\$645.00

Annual Hot Lunch Meal Charge for High School Student (grades 9-12): \$660

How do I pay? Payment can be made by FACTS, check or cash and must be submitted with the enrollment form.

What forms do I need to fill out? If you are interested in hot lunch for your child you must fill out and return the following to TA Business Office, Attn: Hot Lunch, 4445 Old Court Road, Baltimore, MD 21208:

- a) The [Hot Lunch Enrollment Form](#)
- b) If you are eligible for free or reduced meals then you must fill out the Government form for free or reduced eligibility called the [FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEAL BENEFIT APPLICATION \(MBA\)](#)
- c) Payment (by check, cash or by checking off the option to add the cost to your FACTS payments on the enrollment form)

All forms are due by August 19, 2019 to guarantee inclusion in the program for the beginning of the school year.

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 contact, Mrs. Batsheva Berger at 410-484-6600 x7327 or bberger@talmudicalacademy.org.

Looking forward to another wonderful and healthy school year,



Yehudah Zelinger
Director of Special Projects