


**WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Financial Assistance Program for 2016-2017**

The Weston Public Schools has created a centralized financial assistance application process, which should be noted is separate from the school lunch program governed by the USDA National School Lunch Program. Parents or guardians seeking financial assistance should complete the Financial Assistance Determination Form (FAP-01 available at the Finance and Operations section of the district website) and return the form only to the district’s Business Office to ensure confidentiality of sensitive financial information. **(If parents have submitted a Free and Reduced Lunch Application, please see the last paragraph for an information sharing option which eliminates the need to complete the rest of this application.)**

The district’s Financial Assistance Program is based on the US Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines posted at their website (<http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty>). The US Department of Agriculture also uses these guidelines to determine the Free and Reduced Lunch eligible income levels. The district expanded the poverty level by a multiplier to better match Weston’s income level and assist families whose income is greater than those established by the Free and Reduced Lunch Guidelines. The guidelines are:

Weston Determination Status	Income Level over HHS Poverty Guideline for Household Income
Fee Waiver	Less than 150%
50% Fee Reduction	Between 150% and 200%

As federal income guidelines are updated, the Weston Financial Assistance Program guidelines will be adjusted accordingly and the chart below will change. There are two additional income levels used that are higher than the Free and Reduced Lunch Guidelines to determine reduced fees in Weston:

Persons in Family or Household	Poverty Level 48 States	Free Lunch (130%)	Reduced Lunch (185%)	Weston Fee Waivers 	Free of Charge (150%)	50% Fee Reduction (200%)
1	\$11,880	\$15,444	\$21,978		\$17,820	\$23,760
2	\$16,020	\$20,826	\$29,637		\$24,030	\$32,040
3	\$20,160	\$26,208	\$37,296		\$30,240	\$40,320
4	\$24,300	\$31,590	\$44,955		\$36,450	\$48,600
5	\$28,440	\$36,972	\$52,614		\$42,660	\$56,880
6	\$32,580	\$42,354	\$60,273		\$48,870	\$65,160
7	\$36,730	\$47,749	\$67,951		\$55,095	\$73,460
8	\$40,890	\$53,157	\$75,647		\$61,335	\$81,780
Each additional, add	\$4,160	\$5,408	\$7,696		\$6,240	\$8,320

*Source: Federal Register, dated March 23, 2016*

### **Process for Applying for Financial Assistance**

The Business Office processes applications (Form FAP-01) as they are submitted. Financial assistance applications are available for each school year after May 1<sup>st</sup> in the Business and School Offices and online through the district's website. Due to the volume of applications at registration periods and the information required, it can take up to two (2) weeks to have an application processed from receipt of the application to final notification of parents and principals.

To apply for financial assistance, parents/guardians must:

- Complete the application and provide copies of documentation requested;
- Submit the completed forms to the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations at the following address:

Weston Public Schools  
89 Wellesley Street  
Weston, MA 02493

Upon receipt of a completed application, the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations reviews the application, makes a determination, sends a notification by letter to the family, and notifies appropriate School Department personnel of any fee reductions granted.

### **Determination of Income and Income Verification**

Weston's Financial Assistance Program determinations are based solely on household income and do not take into account mortgage payments, property value (unless zero income is reported), college tuitions, or household expenses.

Documentation of household income includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Internal Revenue Service Form 1040, Pages 1 and 2 of all adults residing in the household;
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Disability Income;
- Unemployment Compensation and severance pay;
- Alimony and child support agreements;
- Transitional Assistance Letters and Benefits; and
- Pay stubs if there has been a decline in income from the previous tax year.

Foster children are not included as a member of the family with which they reside or in the household income of the custodial parent. Non-custodial parent income is considered when that parent receives the tax deduction for the dependent and there is no record of child support.

The program requires documentation of income from parties who do not reside with the household but who are providing financial support. Documentation of guardianship and foster child status must also be provided.

All application information is kept confidential and not included in any student file. All documentation submitted with the application is kept for three years and then shredded.

### **Free and Reduced Lunch**

Those parents and guardians who intend to apply to the Free and Reduced Price School Lunch Program must complete a separate application. USDA National School Lunch Program guidelines

prohibit any use of the Free and Reduced Price School Lunch application for any program other than the school lunch program *unless* the Information Sharing Agreement is signed. Parents who sign this agreement do not need to complete the Financial Assistance Determination Application (FAP-01) to apply for fee reductions.