

Changes to Basic Food Program Allow More Families to Qualify

The Bellingham School District is partnering with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to help distribute important information to families in the district. More students will be eligible for free meals at school because more families will qualify for Basic Food (Food Stamps).

As of Oct. 1, the income eligibility for Basic Food (formerly Food Stamps) will significantly increase.

If your family has typically not qualified for food stamps because your family income was too high, you may now qualify. If your family qualifies, your school-aged children will automatically be enrolled in the schools' free meal program for the rest of the school year. A family with two children eating school lunch every day could save \$1,000 in lunch costs over the course of the school year. Other benefits include reduced Associated Student Body (ASB) fees, athletic fees, and club memberships for the Bellingham Boys & Girls Club and Bellingham Parks and Recreation.

For details and Basic Food applications in English, Spanish and Russian:
<http://www.bham.wednet.edu/departments/foodservices/foodservices.htm>

**All applications must be returned to the DSHS office, 4101 Meridian St., Bellingham.
Please call toll-free at 1-877-514-3663 with any questions.**