



# Who Qualifies?

## Who qualifies for a free school meal?

Parents who live in England / Wales can claim free school meals for their child if they or their partner get one of the following:

- **Income Support**
- **Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The 'Guarantee' element of State Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190**

Parents receiving Working Tax Credit for four weeks after their employment finishes are also entitled to free school meals during that period.

Children who receive any of the qualifying benefits listed above in their own right are also eligible to receive free school meals.



### What is Income Support?

Income Support is extra money to help people on a low income, who can't work full-time but don't have enough to live on. It's for people who don't have to sign on as unemployed. Whether people qualify or not and how much they get depends on their specific circumstances.

### What is Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance?

Jobseeker's Allowance is the main benefit for people of working age who are out of work or who work less than 16 hours a week, on average. If a parent is eligible, it is paid while they are looking for work.

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance is based on actual income and savings. A parent may get this if they have not paid enough National Insurance Contributions to count for the State Pension or other long term state benefits (or if they've only paid contributions for self-employment) and they're on a low income.



### What is Income-based Employment and Support Allowance?

The Employment and Support Allowance provides financial help to people who are unable to work because of illness or disability. It also provides personalised support to those who qualify, who are able to work.

Parents are entitled to claim income-based Employment and Support Allowance if they do not have enough money coming in, or they have not paid enough National Insurance Contributions to count for the State Pension or other long term state benefits, and they can satisfy the entitlement conditions.

This means that they have savings of less than £16,000 and, if they have a partner or civil partner, that person works for less than 24 hours a week on average.

### Who receives support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999?

The Secretary of State may provide, or arrange for the provision of, support for asylum-seekers or their dependents who appear to the Secretary of State to be destitute or to be likely to become so, within a specific period.