

## Regarding Free School Lunches for the Third Child Onwards in Chiba City for the 2026 FY

The following program information applies to children enrolled in Chiba City junior high schools (including the first stage of integrated secondary schools) and special needs schools (limited to the junior high division) during the 2026 academic year.

### Parents/Guardians Eligible for the School Lunch Fee Exemption

To help alleviate the financial burden on households raising multiple children, the third child and onwards will become exempt from paying the school lunch fee if they are of compulsory education age and attending a municipal school in Chiba City (from April 2026-March 2027).

In order to be exempt from paying the fee, **an application must be submitted every fiscal year.**

**Even if your child was exempt from paying the school lunch fee in 2025, an application still needs to be submitted for the 2026 fiscal year.** If your child(ren) is eligible, please follow the instructions for the application procedure as follows.

For the 2026 FY, parents/guardians who meet all the conditions ①-④ stated below are eligible for the exemption. In regards to your children, the free lunch fee exemption will apply to **the third child and onwards (counting from the oldest child).**

- ① You are raising **three or more children** who were born **before April 1<sup>st</sup> 2014.**
- ② Among the children listed in ①, the third child and subsequent children receive school lunches at a Chiba City public junior high school (including the junior high school division of integrated secondary schools) or a special needs school (limited to the junior high school division).
- ③ The child(ren) is not in receipt of public assistance system or academic supports (excluding the school attendance support grant) for the school lunch fees (**if you are currently in the middle of applying for public assistance, please apply for this grant as well free of charge.**)
- ④ The guardian has **no overdue school lunch fees** from the 2025 fiscal year (please apply after completely paying their full amount).

### How to Apply

For online applications

Please use the “Chiba City Online Application Service” to apply



Follow the instructions and apply on the dedicated website\* (use the QR Code on the right or use the URL below).

For online applications, it is necessary to include an electronic signature and a copy of Image of Health Insurance Card Eligibility Information.

\*Website for online applications with example applications

For written applications

- ① Fill in the necessary information on the “Free School Lunches for the Third Child Onwards Application Form” (for the fiscal year 2026) and submit one per household. Please fill in your child’s school and grade as of April 2026 (or at the time of application for those applying after the application deadline).
- ② For any child listed on the application who is not enrolled in a Chiba City public junior high school (including the junior high school division of integrated secondary schools) or special needs school (limited to the junior high school division) as of April 2026 (or at the time of application for ongoing applications), please attach or enclose a copy of valid documentation\* confirming their health insurance eligibility to the back of the application form. Sample completed application forms are available on the Free Education website★ for your reference.
- ③ To protect personal information and prevent loss of documents, please place your application materials in any envelope you have on hand and seal it securely using adhesive or similar means.
- ④ If submitting directly to the school, write down the grade, name of the eligible child, parent/guardian’s name and “令和8年度 給食費減免申請書” (“Free School Lunches for the Third Child Onwards Application Form for the 2026 FY”) on the front of the envelope (if submitting by post, it is not necessary to write the child’s name and grade on the front of the envelope).  
Please clearly indicate on the envelope the grade and name of the child(ren) eligible for the third child or subsequent children, the guardian’s name, and “2026 School Lunch Fee Reduction Application” (Only indicate this when submitting directly to the school. When mailing, it is not necessary to include the child’s grade and name.).
- ⑤ Please check the application deadline on the back of this form. Submit the envelope containing the application to the school your child attends, as written on the front of the envelope in step ④. You may also mail or submit the application directly to the Health and Physical Education Department listed on the back.

★Search

Chiba City School Lunch Fee Exemption for the Third Child and Onwards/ 千葉市 第3子

(\*Website with English and Chinese Information:

<https://www.city.chiba.jp/kyoiku/gakkokyoiku/hokentaiiku/03-3ikoukyusyokuhimusyyou.html> )

## Application Period to Receive the Exemption from the Start of the Fiscal Year in April 2026

If you would like to receive the exemption starting from the first bill at the beginning of the fiscal year, please submit your application by the application deadlines stated below.

- ① Households with dependent children in the second or third year of junior high school: Until Friday, April 10, 2026
- ② Households with only one child entering the first year of junior high school: Until Friday, April 24, 2026

\* If the third or subsequent dependent child is only a new first-year junior high school student, when submitting the application form to the school, please submit it to the school where the child will newly enroll starting in the 2026 academic year.

## Applying after the Application Deadline

**(Final Application Date for the 2026 FY: Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2027※)**

- ※ If your child meets the above requirements ( ① and ②) but the application deadline has passed, please submit the application form as soon as possible.
- ※ If the application is received and approved by the 20th of each month (the day before if it falls on the weekend or a holiday), the school lunch will be provided free of charge from the next month (when billed). If the application is accepted retroactively, any overpaid amount will be refunded at a later date.
- ※ Please be aware that if the application for the 2026 FY is not received by the application deadline (February 26<sup>th</sup> 2026), then your child(ren) will not be exempt from paying the school lunch fee in 2026.

If the following cases apply to you, you may still be eligible for the exemption as long as you meet the prerequisites.

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| ... <u>Moved to Chiba City from somewhere else</u> | Increase in the number of children you're taking care of (junior high school students and above) |
| ... <u>Paid off any outstanding lunch fees</u>     | <u>Stopped receiving school support fees or public assistance</u>                                |

- ※ If you have any special circumstances or question about your application, please contact the Health and Physical Education Division below.

## Decision Notice

A decision notice with the results of your application will be distributed as follows:

- If you applied during the initial application period: around June 2026
- If you applied after the initial application period deadline: one to two months after your submitted your application (\*if there are no issues with the information provided in the application form)

Children whose applications have been accepted will be exempt from paying the school lunch fee during the applicable period. Please note that if the school lunch fees or other fees are usually paid by account transfer, only the Japan Sports Center mutual aid premium and school fees will be charged to the account (excluding the school lunch fees).

## In the case that your child cannot receive the school lunch due to an allergy or other reason

Children (third child and onwards) who are in receipt of the school lunches and are unable to eat it due to an allergy or other reason, and are bringing their own lunch to school\*, are also eligible to apply for the exemption

from the school lunch fee. If the requirements are met and the application approved, you will be informed separately about the grant amount you are eligible to receive in regards to the difference between the cost of the full school lunch fee and the cost of bringing alternative lunches to school.

\*If the above underlined information applies to your situation and you did not receive the payment information for the 2025 fiscal year, please contact us before the end of March 2026.

【Website with English and Chinese information:

<https://www.city.chiba.jp/kyoiku/gakkokyoiku/hokentaiiku/kyusyokusagaku.html> 】

### **Change in Application Information after Submission**

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After the exemption has been confirmed, if there is any change to the information provided on your application please submit a “Notification of Change in Circumstances for the Exemption of the School Lunch Fee” (学校給食費減免状況変更届) as soon as possible (downloadable from the website).

For more information, please contact the Health and Physical Education Division below.

#### **Contact Information:**

Public Accounting Section, Health and Physical Education Division, Chiba City Board of Education, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chiba City Hall, 1-1 Chibaminato, Chuo Ward, Chiba City 〒260-8722

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