

Dr. Terry Ward  
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Elizabeth Kupiec  
Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Julie Criss  
Committee on Special Education Chairperson

September 18, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to share information about the federal Affordable Connectivity Program to help New York State families pay for internet service. The pandemic showed us that, with so many households relying on the Internet for education, New Yorkers need access to affordable and dependable broadband.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) provides all households in your district \$30 a month assistance if they are enrolled in the Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program and/or the School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

Due to Cato-Meridian Central School District's CEP status for the 2023-2024 school year, this letter confirms that the children in your household have been approved to receive free or reduced price school meals during the 2023-2024 school year.

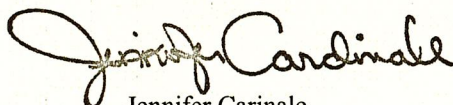
Because your child(ren) has been approved to receive free or reduced price meals under the NSLP or SBP, you are eligible for the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The ACP is a federal program to help eligible households pay for internet service. The ACP provides a monthly discount of not more than \$30 per month on broadband service and associated equipment (for example, a modem) for eligible households and not more than \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. If your household chooses a plan from a participating provider that costs \$30/month or less, your household will receive that service for free.

Some participating program providers also offer discounted connected devices (a laptop, a desktop computer, or tablet) through the ACP. Households participating in the ACP are eligible for a one-time benefit of up to \$100 off one connected device as long as the household contributes more than \$10 and less than \$50 towards the cost of the device. Each participating household is limited to a single device discount.

To apply, you can fill out an application either online: <https://getinternet.gov/apply?ln=RW5nbGlzaA%3D%3D>, by mail, or through a participating service provider: <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/companies-near-me/> and submit a copy of this letter as documentation verifying your child/children receives school meal benefits through the NSLP or SBP.

If you have questions about the ACP, your eligibility to participate, or to find information about participating providers near you, please visit <https://getinternet.gov/>, call 877-384-2575, or email [acpsupport@usac.org](mailto:acpsupport@usac.org).

Sincerely,



Jennifer Carinale  
Personnel Clerk  
Cato-Meridian CSD