

Comment: How are menu items and portion sizes determined? i.e. Kindergarten and fifth grade students receive the same portion size; 6th through 12th grade don't receive a large enough portion

- Response:
- As a participant in the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs, we have specific guideline we are required to meet that include portion sizes.
  - Please click here to review lunch and breakfast USDA meal pattern requirements.
  - Taher Food Service must adhere to these requirements / guidelines.

Comment: Why does Chef Pete not cook the same items as he has in the past?

- Response:
- In the past, Chef Pete's meal was sold as an a la carte item that wasn't required to meet the meal guidelines. Now, Taher Food Service must follow Federal guidelines for [all](#) meals provided.

Comment: Who can take breakfast?

- Response:
- All students may take breakfast. Pricing varies by building.

Comment: How are meal prices determined?

- Response:
- The Department of Public Instruction notifies school districts annually of the Weighted Average Cost for meals.
  - DPI then requires all districts to use a calculation tool to determine what the minimum annual increase for breakfast and lunch prices must be.

Comment: Do students need to pay "extra" for healthy foods? (i.e. fruits and vegetables)

- Response:
- All buildings offer a fruit and veggie bar where students may take as much as they want.
  - At the middle and high school it is more economical for a student to purchase a full meal which includes the fruit and veggie bar. A full meal which includes an unlimited fruit and veggie bar (still with the ½ cup requirement) and optional milk is only \$.10 more than just a hamburger or slice of pizza.
  - Fruits and veggies alone may be purchased at ala carte pricing at middle and high school.

Comment: When and how can I apply for free or reduced meals?

- Response:
- Applications for free and reduced meals may be submitted at any time during the year and may be re-submitted if there is a change within the household size or income.
  - We are required to provide this applications to all households on an annual basis.
  - Applications can be found in your green registration folders, online on the food service web page or in the office of each school building.

Comment: What if I don't qualify for free or reduced meals but I still need assistance?

- Response:
- If you feel you may qualify for assistance we encourage you to complete an application. Submission and status of an application is confidential.
  - If you are denied or are still unable to meet the reduced meal pricing please contact Jenny McKenna at 608.877.5012.

Comment: What can I do if I have special dietary concerns for my child?

- Response:
- Please contact Michelle Madden, Director of Taher Food Services at 608.877.5419.

- Comment Why do we offer soda during the school day?
- Response:
  - Diet soda currently meets the Federal Guidelines. However we have decided that we will begin phasing this out of our offerings by spring break.
- Comment What fruits are served on the fruit and veggie bar?
- Response:
  - Fresh 3-5 days per week (pineapple, grapes, apples, grapefruit, oranges, bananas, kiwi, melon, pears
  - Canned 2 days per week or less (unsweetened applesauce, peaches, pears and mixed fruit)
- Comment What vegetables are served on the fruit and veggie bar?
- Response:
  - All vegetables served are fresh
  - Tomatoes, radishes, romaine lettuce, broccoli, jicama, cauliflower, spinach, carrots, celery, peppers, beets, variety of legumes and fresh vegetable salads (Spring Corn Salad, etc.)
- Comment What vegetables are served cooked?
- Response:
  - Potatoes, corn, green beans, broccoli, peas, cauliflower and carrots
- Comment Are fruits and vegetables purchased locally when able?
- Response:
  - Yes, we work with a local produce company, Catalano to provide us with local products when they are available.
- Comment: Why can't we have smaller servings of fruits and vegetables?
- Response:
  - Federal guidelines state that any student purchasing a full meal must take three of five components offered. One of these components must be ½ cup of fruit and/or vegetable. They may take more than that if they choose.
- Comment Why is dip or hummus not served with the veggie bar?
- Response:
  - Dips and hummus can be a healthy addition to lunch, however in large amounts they are quite high in calories.
  - Regulations consider what the average student would take for a serving. When unmeasured, most dips and hummus would max out the weekly sodium and calorie requirements.
- Comment Do students have to take milk with lunch?
- Response:
  - Milk is NOT required with the purchase of a full meal. It is included if desired but not required.
- Comment Why do students now have to enter their student id number to purchase?
- Response:
  - When we moved our foodservice software into Infinite Campus we no longer have barcode scanners
  - Student Id numbers are also used for logging onto technology devices and to check out library materials. This number is specific to them in the Stoughton School District.
  - There is less chance for cards being lost, stolen and used by other students. When entering their ID number into the pin pad, their picture comes up on the screen so the cashier can verify the right number is being used
- Comment Can I monitor/control what items my child is purchasing?

- Response:
- You can view all purchase and payment transactions through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If you would like to activate your portal account please email Jenny McKenna at [Jenny.McKenna@Stoughton.k12.wi.us](mailto:Jenny.McKenna@Stoughton.k12.wi.us)
  - You may restrict ala carte items as a whole (not individual items), set a 1 meal per day limit and/or set a price limit per day. To do this please contact Jenny McKenna at [Jenny.McKenna@Stoughton.k12.wi.us](mailto:Jenny.McKenna@Stoughton.k12.wi.us)

Comment Why did the content on the menus change? Menus used to contain indicators for items being homemade, seasonal or whole grain.

- Response:
- The menu format we use now has room to include the fruit and vegetable offerings. We will look into making format changes to include more information on the menu items.

Comment Why do menus sometimes change at the last minute?

- Response:
- We do our best to serve what is listed on the menu. There can be last minute changes due to not receiving a product ordered, receiving a wrong product or delivery problems

Comment Is it true that meals are now low in sugar but high in fat?

- Response:
- Meals have lower sugar, sodium and fat since the regulations went into effect.