



LITCHFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

272 East Sagebrush Street • Litchfield Park, Arizona 85340 • 623.535.6000 • Fax 623.935.1448 • www.lesd79.org

“A Stronger Mind for a Stronger Future”

2021-2022 FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEAL APPLICATION

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Welcome to the 2021/2022 School Year. Please read the following information to familiarize yourself with a few Child Nutrition procedures. If you have questions, please call or email, the Food Services Office at (623) 535-6060 or food-nutrition@lesd.k12.az.us

Children need healthy meals to learn. Litchfield Elementary School District #79 will be offering healthy meals to all students at no cost every school day in School Year 2021-2022. Your child(ren) will receive one free Breakfast and one free Lunch meal every school day regardless of your household's income.

The goal of the Litchfield Elementary School District's award-winning Food Services Department is to provide nutritious and appetizing meals for all students. We offer high-quality meals at school, so your child is prepared to achieve educational excellence. Thank you for partnering with us to ensure quality nutrition for your child.

Nutritional Quality

Lunch and breakfast menus meet the American Dietary Guidelines as specified by the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. Additionally, menus are analyzed to ensure that, when averaged over a week, meals comply with these nutritional standards.

Meal Benefits

All Litchfield families are encouraged to apply for the Free and Reduced Price Meal Assistance Program. Applications are available at www.lesd79.org (Food Services Department, TITAN School Solutions link) and at all District schools and cafeterias. Only one application is needed for all of your children enrolled in the Litchfield Elementary School District (K-8). Recipients of CA, Food Stamps, or FDPIR benefits must complete an application if they have not been directly certified for this school year. Incomplete applications will be returned to you, delaying the approval process. Electronic applications are processed faster. You are responsible for payment of meal charges until the application is approved, which may take up to 10 days.

Application Dates

If your child was approved for free or reduced meals during the 2020-2021 school year and you would like benefits to continue, **you must re-apply by Tuesday, September 14th, 2021,** to avoid interruption of benefits.

Offer vs. Serve Program

All District cafeterias operate under the "Offer vs. Serve" method. All students will be offered a full meal in accordance with USDA requirements, which consist of a Meat/Alternate, Grain, Vegetable, Fruit, and Fluid Milk. Students have the option to refuse some components provided at least ½ cup of fruit and or vegetable in addition to any two other components are chosen; however, meal prices remain the same. If a student refuses more meal components than allowed, then the student must pay a la carte prices for the selected items. All meals include one trip through the salad and fruit bar, which offer a large variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, and mixed salads daily. We strive to provide healthier choices for our students and offer low-fat, reduced sugar, reduced-sodium, whole grain-rich, and nutrient-dense products. Monthly menus are posted online and may be found at www.lesd79.org or on the TITAN Family Portal <https://family.titank12.com>, where you may also view the nutritional information.

Meal Prices for Students

For the 2021/2022 school year all students are eligible for one Breakfast and one Lunch meal at no cost every school day regardless of your household's income. Additional meals, entrees, sides, and a la carte are available for purchase, please refer to our menu and website for more information.

Meal Charges

All students have a meal account with an ID number. You may review your student's account balance and make payments to your student's account by visiting www.lesd79.org (Food Services Department, TITAN School Solutions link). Deposits by check, money order, or cash may be made before school. Pre-payments of any size are welcome. A \$5.00 fee will be charged for each nonsufficient

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fund check that is returned by the bank and may result in checks no longer being accepted. Student's account balances, both negative and positive, rollover from the previous year. Students must have sufficient funds and or cash to purchase extra meals and a la carte items as they are not able to be charged.

Thank you,

Chef, Ronald L. Beck II, BS, SNS
Director, Food Services Department

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information requested in order to verify your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals. If you do not provide the information or provide incomplete information, your children may no longer receive free or reduced-price meals.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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