Butler Area School District

SCHOOL BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROGRAM

What do our cafeterias offer?

Butler Area School District serves breakfast and lunch in each of its ten buildings. Elementary students are offered a choice of two lunch meals each day. We prep our meals one day ahead, so meal choices are ordered one day in advance. Elementary level students (grades K-6) are also able to purchase snacks during their lunch time. Chips, ice cream, cookies, and juice will range from $.50 to $1.50.

At the Intermediate High School and Senior High School, a daily lunch option is available. These two schools also offer a variety of popular alternate options such as pizza, chicken sandwiches, and salads daily. Students at this level may also purchase ala carte items in addition to lunches. Fries, mozzarella sticks, Pepsi products, chips, cookies and ice cream are some examples. The Senior High School also has a snack shack that is open all day for students to visit when they are in study hall.

How does my child make a purchase in the cafeteria?

Each student is assigned a PIN number that stays with them throughout their years with Butler Area School District. All newly enrolled students will receive a letter in the mail with their PIN number. This number is used to make any purchase in our cafeterias. If your child forgets their PIN number, you can contact Helen Walker at 724-214-3223. Purchases can be made with either cash, check (made payable to Butler Area School District), or from money deposited on your child's account.

How does my child's food service account work?

Parents are able to add money to a student's account in a couple of different ways. Cash or checks (made payable to the Butler Area School District) can be given to the cashier in the school's cafeteria.   Another option is School Café, a tool available for parents to monitor their child's cafeteria account. The link for this website can be found on the Butler Area School District website www.basd.k12.org under the Nutrition tab. Once you set up your child's account, you can view their purchases and add money electronically to the accounts. You will need your child's Student ID number to set up this account. It is provided on the PIN number letter all new students receive. If you have misplaced your child's PIN number or Student ID number, please contact the Food Service office at 724-214-3223.

What happens if my child forgets their money or lunch?

Butler Area School District will provide breakfast and lunch for any child who wants one. If the child does not have money to pay for their meal, it will be charged to their account. Parents are responsible for any charges that are incurred by the student. Letters are mailed home once a month if a student owes more than $5.00 on their cafeteria account. Only breakfast and lunch meals can be charged, no snack or ala carte items are allowed to be charged to an account. If a student owes a balance on their account, they are prohibited from purchasing snacks and ala carte items until the balance is paid.

How do I know if I qualify for Free and Reduced status?

Every summer our district is provided with a list of Direct Certification eligible students. The households on this list will receive a letter in August from the Butler Area School District informing them of their status before the school year begins. If you receive this letter, you DO NOT NEED TO APPLY for Free and Reduced status. If you do not receive this letter, you need to apply for Free and Reduced status so that your child can receive benefits if they are eligible.

Please note that errors can occur with this list. If your child(ren) were Free and Reduced last school year, it does not automatically make them eligible in the new school year. In addition, newly enrolled students are encouraged to apply for Free and Reduced status even if they were Free and Reduced at a previous school. This can prevent a waiting period for benefits to transfer from other schools.

If a student qualifies for Free and Reduced status, this includes both breakfast and lunch.

How do I apply for Free and Reduced status?

Beginning in the middle of July, parents are able to begin applying for Free and Reduced status for the upcoming school year. We encourage everyone to apply online from a link available on the Butler Area School District website: www.basd.k12.org. This will ensure that your child begins the school year as Free and Reduced if they qualify. Every child will also receive a Free and Reduced paper application the first week of school.

If you did not apply online, fill out the application and return it to your child's school as soon as possible. If you have more than one child in the district you only have to fill out ONE application per household. You will receive a letter informing you of the status of your application, online or paper. Remember, just because your child qualified for Free and Reduced last school year does not mean they will automatically be the same status the next year. You need to receive a letter from the district informing you of your child's status.

What are CEP schools?

Center Avenue Community School, Emily Brittain Community Partnership and Demonstration School, and McQuistion Elementary School are all Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools. This means that ALL students who attend these schools are eligible for free breakfast and lunch. This does not include snacks. No Free and Reduced application is required if your child attends one of these schools. Please note that the building is considered FREE status, not the individual students. Therefore, if your child transfers to another elementary school within our district or moves on to the Middle School, they are not automatically still eligible for Free and Reduced status.

Who do I contact if I have questions about Food Service?

You can contact Helen Walker at 724-214-3223 or helen_walker@butler.k12.pa.us with any questions concerning your child's cafeteria account.

The Nutrition Group

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SCHOOL DISTRICT