

## **Region 15 Food and Nutrition Services**

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Director of Food and Nutrition Services

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Food & Nutrition

Dear Region 15 Families,

## IMPORTANT UPDATE: Transition back to paid, free and reduced meals January 3, 2023

Pursuant to Public Act No. 22-118 (House Bill 5506), \$30 million of federal American Rescue Plan Act (2021) funds were allocated to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) for the Free School Meals for Children grant. The intent of this appropriation was for these funds to assist households, through school food authorities' (SFAs) continued provision of school meals at no cost to students for as long as possible in the 2022-23 school year as our districts transition back to normal operations of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs.

These funds have been depleted and will no longer be available after December 31, 2022.

Region 15 will transition back to paid meals for both breakfast and lunch on

January 3, 2023. We are happy we were able to provide breakfast and lunch at no cost for the past year.

## FREE AND REDUCED MEAL APPLICATION INFORMATION:

We encourage families to submit a free and reduced meal application as soon as possible to see if they qualify to receive additional benefits in the district and to eliminate the potential for any unnecessary charges. Income guidelines from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are used in Connecticut to determine the eligibility of participants for free and reduced-price meals or milk in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs.

- Family Application for Free and Reduced Lunch
- Parent Letter and FAQs for Free / Reduced Lunch in Region 15

If you have any questions about your student's eligibility for Free and Reduced meals please contact the Food and Nutrition Services Department at (203) 758-8259 ext 1038.

## ADDITIONAL REGION 15 FOOD SERVICES INFORMATION:

- Region 15 Food Service Charging Policy
- Region 15 Menus
- Region 15 Meal Prices
- Payment Options:
  - Meals can be paid for using MySchoolBucks, cash or check.
  - For your convenience, <u>MySchoolBucks</u> an easy online payment system is offered to add funds to your student's meal account and to view your student's purchases. Each family can create an account or log in to an existing account. Login and account information is available on the MySchoolBucks website. *Please note there is a service fee associated with this service.*
  - Checks can be made payable to: Region 15 Food Service.
    - Elementary School Payments: Place all check(s) in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the student's name.
    - Middle School and High School students can give check(s) or cash directly to the cafeteria staff.

Thank you for supporting Region 15 Food and Nutrition Services! We look forward to continuing to serve the students of Region 15.

Sincerely,
Meghan Sullivan, RD, CD-N
Director of Food and Nutrition Services

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