

# General Questions about Canfield School Nutrition

## Services [How much taxpayer money is used to operate the School Nutrition](#)

### [Services?](#)

The Canfield School Food Service is a self-sustaining operation. Our success comes from your support.

### [What are the current prices for school lunch?](#)

#### **School year 2023-2024 lunch prices:**

Elementary - \$2.70

Canfield Village Middle - \$2.95

High School- \$2.95 & \$3.50 (Bar Lunch & Smartmouth Pizza)

Reduced Price Lunch - \$0.40

\*Meal prices are subject to change each school year

### [Student Meal Accounts](#)

Each student in the Canfield School District is assigned a student ID number. Your student's meal account is created when your student is registered. This number can be obtained by contacting your building secretary or through Progress Book. For example, if their student ID number is 339784, their lunch number will be 9784

### [How can I make deposits to my child's account?](#)

Prepaying for lunch and ala carte items is an efficient way to pay for your student's meals. You may prepay by check, cash or online at [payschools.com](https://payschools.com). Visit our homepage for more information <https://www.payschoolscentral.com/> or video [https://payschools.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/2017\\_0216\\_PaySchools\\_Central\\_Walkthrough\\_Final\\_web.mp4](https://payschools.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/2017_0216_PaySchools_Central_Walkthrough_Final_web.mp4)

When paying by check, please include your child's full name or lunch number in the memo section of your check. **Please make check payable to: Canfield School Cafeteria**

If paying with cash, please include your child's full name on the envelope.

Deposits to an account can be made any time the cafeteria is open.

### **What is the district's policy on charging?**

See our District's policy on Home Page

### **What happens if someone uses my child's account?**

Your student's number should be kept confidential and should not be shared with other students. If the number is used by someone other than the legitimate holder, the register will notify the cashier that the number has already been used for the purchase of a meal for that day. This does not include ala carte items. If this should happen, the Food Service Director will take the necessary steps to rectify the situation. A parent may ask for a report on their child's account. To make this request, please contact the Food Service Director, Noelle Roth at 330-533-5507 ext 72411.

### **What happens to my child's money at the end of the school year?**

If your child has money left on their account at the end of the year, the money stays in the account and will be available on the first day of the school the following year. Account balances, whether there is a credit or debt, follow the student from year to year.

### **How do I receive a refund?**

If you want a refund on your child's account, you must send a letter with your signature to the Food Service Director or you can make this request in person at the school's cafeteria.

### **What if my child is allergic to milk, peanuts, etc.?**

If your child has a food allergy, please notify the Food Service Director AND our school nurse. A doctor's note must be sent to the cafeteria stating the allergy. If replacing one food with another, this too must be included in the physician's letter. For example, if the child has a milk allergy, then the physician's note must include that milk is to be replaced with juice or water. If your child has a milk intolerance, then a "Lactose Free" milk may be substituted.

## **Government and School Nutrition Services**

### **How does the Commodity Donated Food Program work?**

Through the Commodity Food Program, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service provides food to meet the nutritional needs of children and needy adults. The program has a two-fold purpose:

- To aid the American farmers by stabilizing farm prices through the purchase of excess agricultural commodities and;
- Improving the nutritional well-being of needy adults and the nation's school children.

Under the current commodity donation system, USDA purchases commodities and arranges for their transportation to designated locations within each state. State distributing agencies are then responsible for storing food, transporting it within the state, and ensuring its distribution to eligible recipients.

School district food service departments are allocated commodities based on the average daily participation in the National School Lunch Program.

Each food service department must also budget for transportation to the school district, handling and storage costs on a per case basis. So, while commodities are not free, they are still below cost than if purchased on the open market.

### **What does “Offer vs. Serve” mean?**

Offer vs. Serve was established in October 1975 when Public Law 94-105 mandated that students in high school would not be required to accept offered foods they did not intend to consume. At the middle school and elementary levels, the policy is optional and it is up to each individual district to decide whether they wish to extend Offer vs. Serve to the middle or elementary level. Canfield School Nutrition Services has chosen to extend Offer vs. Serve to include the elementary and middle schools.

The five components of the meal include:

- Meat or meat alternate
- Fruit
- Vegetable
- Bread and grains (whole grains)
- Milk (water or juice cannot be substituted for milk unless the district is provided with a Medical Plan from school nurse)

As long as the student takes three of the five items, the meal will be counted as a complete meal and eligible for reimbursement. One of the items taken must be a fruit or vegetable.

### **If I take fewer than five items, will I be able to pay less for my meal?**

No. The purpose of the Offer vs. Serve program is to reduce plate waste and allow students a choice in what they wish to have for lunch. The student may take everything if they desire. As a result, there is no reduction in price. Meals that contain less than the required three items do not qualify for reimbursement. Therefore, the cost of the food and preparation of the food must be covered by someone other than the government. To cover these costs, the cafeteria charges these items back to the student and may result in a higher price than if the student chose to take 3 of the 5 offered items.

### **Why isn't there a statewide (or nationwide) charge set for all paying students?**

Because food, labor and other costs vary so greatly throughout the state of Ohio, an established charge for all students would not be feasible. In this district, the food service department maintains a self-supporting operation.

## **Why is the adult charge higher than the student charge?**

The intent of the Nation School Lunch Program is to provide nutritious and low cost meals to children. Since this program is for children, there is no federal assistance or reimbursement for meals served to adults. The value of this reimbursement or assistance must not be used to subsidize adult meals. Therefore, the adult meal charge has to be at least a combination of the basic reimbursement rate plus the guaranteed value of USDA commodities (per plate) and higher than the highest charge to the child in the school district. An adult should receive the same size meal as that of a secondary student for the established charge.

## **Nutrition and School Food Services**

### **Questions Are whole grain breads more nutritious than**

#### **white bread?**

White bread and whole grain breads are not the same thing. When white flour is milled, the outer bran layer and the germ are separated. The germ is taken off because it contains fat. The bran is removed because it is coarse in texture, brown in color and has a flavor that some people do not like. However, bran is where the fiber is located and is lost during the milling process. White bread does not contain the bran, therefore, does not have as high of fiber content as does whole grain breads. Vitamins and minerals are found in the bran layer and wheat germ of whole grain items, but are not found in refined, white flour. Although nutrients are lost when white flour is milled, white flour is then enriched with B vitamins, iron, calcium and vitamin D. But whether it is enriched white bread or whole grain bread, bread is an essential and inexpensive source of the nutrients needed by our bodies.

### **Why must milk be served with school lunch?**

Eight ounces or 1 cup of fluid milk is a required component of the school lunch pattern. No other beverage (juice, ice tea, or soda), nor food (ice cream, cottage cheese, or yogurt), can be substituted for this required component. A variety of milk is offered at each cafeteria – 1% white, chocolate or strawberry

#### **Why low fat and skim?**

Because low fat and skim milk have a lower fat content, it is consistent with the dietary guidelines to avoid too much fat, saturated fat and cholesterol in the diet. When low fat or skim milk is offered, only the fat content changes. Low fat or skim milk has all the calcium, Vitamin D, protein and other nutrients as in higher fat milk. The only thing missing is the fat and extra calories. Chocolate and strawberry milk are also low fat products and are offered in elementary as well as secondary schools.