

Child Nutrition

Child Nutrition Programs are federally funded and administered by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and implemented by the State Department of Education which operates through agreements with school food authorities. The objective of the program is to enhance the health and academic achievement of students by providing affordable, nutritionally balanced meals and nutrition education in the cafeteria. Staff members are trained to serve quality meals so that the student enjoys cafeteria meals and the dining room experience.

Free and Reduced (www.myschoolapps.com)

- Child Nutrition Programs provide children in low-income households the opportunity to qualify for meals at a free or reduced rate. Households apply for free/reduced meals annually and their eligibility is based on their household size and income.
- Income guidelines are set annually nationwide. A students' Free/Reduced eligibility lasts for the entire school year. Households may re-apply for benefits if their financial circumstances change within the school year.
- Students who qualify for free/reduced meals are eligible for other assistance programs. Schools use the free/reduced data for benefits as well. Therefore, it's important for all households who think they may qualify to apply even if they do not eat meals at school.

Program Accountability

- Child Nutrition Program revenues and expenditures are separate from the school district budget. All food, supplies, salaries with benefits, equipment, etc. related to the food service program are purchased within the program. Federal and state revenue is generated through claim reimbursement and it's based on the total meals served within that time period. Local revenue is generated by extra food sales, paid student and adult meals.
- Student lunches are sold at a price lower than actual cost because federal reimbursement makes up the difference between what the meal costs to produce and what the student pays.
- An additional goal of the Jackson County School District is to keep the meal prices low for paying students and adults, within federal parameters. USDA FNS Instruction 782-5 sets forth the policy on pricing of meals served to paid students and adults in the National School Lunch, Commodity and Breakfast Programs. No reimbursement or commodities are received for adult meals and the program is not allowed to absorb this difference in cost. The difference in cost must be covered by a higher price to the adult. A child purchasing a second meal would be charged the price of an adult meal due to the fact that only one meal per child can be claimed for reimbursement.

Charge Policy (School Board Policy EEDA)

- All charges not paid before the end of the school year are carried forward into the next school year.
- Withdrawing students will be required to pay their debt during the withdrawal process. Seniors must pay all charges before graduation.
- All returned checks are handled by a collection agency.

Meal Prices

2021-2022 Meal Prices https://www.jcsd.ms/domain/18		
Breakfast	Students (Free, Reduced, Paid)	\$0.00*
	Adults	\$2.00
Lunch	Students (Free, Reduced, Paid)	\$0.00*
	Adults	\$3.25
*COVID-19 USDA program waiver extensions allow for all student meals to be free despite free/reduced eligibility through June 2022.		

Meal Accounts

- The point of service software system provides each student and adult with a meal account to be used to pay for meals and to not overtly identify those students who receive free or reduced priced meals. Advance prepayments are encouraged in efforts to decrease wait time in line, but cash is also accepted from students at the time of purchase. The system provides each student with an account number to be used each year they are enrolled in the school district, regardless of the school they attend.
- An on-line service (www.myschoolbucks.com) is available to view meal balances, track purchases and/or to prepay for students' meals with a credit or debit card. Funds are immediately available for use.
- Parents/Guardians are able to complete a requisition for account transfers or refunds.

Meals in Jackson County School District (<https://www.jcsd.ms/Page/8799>)

- Jackson County School District offers breakfast and lunch to all students daily.
- School breakfast and lunch provide the fuel for students to concentrate, learn, and succeed in the classroom.
- Meals are designed to help children maintain healthy weights and enjoy good health today and in the future. New foods are introduced to stimulate their taste buds and interest in school lunch while providing nutritious meals for academic achievement.
- Menus for Jackson County Schools are designed to give Mississippi students appealing choices and a variety of food selections that meet the National School Lunch and Breakfast meal patterns.

Federal Meal Requirements and Food Sales Policy

- The National School Lunch pattern contains a minimum of the following five meal components: (1) meat/meat alternative, (2) vegetable, (3) fruit, (4) grain, and (5) milk.
- The National School Breakfast pattern contains a minimum of the following meal components, (1) fruit/vegetable, (2) milk, (3) grain and (4) optional meat/meat alternative.
- The *Offer Versus Serve* provision is offered in all grades. This allows for students to decline meal components if they wish.
- Federal policy *Smart Snacks in Schools* sets parameters on the nutrient content of the foods and beverages sold to students during school hours.
 - Foods sold on campus during school hours must be whole grain-rich products or must have a fruit, vegetable, dairy or protein food as the first ingredient. The food must contain 10% of the daily value of calcium, potassium, vitamin D, or fiber. The sale of candy is prohibited.

Smart Snacks in Schools	
Calories	≤ 200 calories per serving
Total Fat	≤ 35% per serving (excludes nuts, seeds, & reduced fat cheese)
-Saturated Fat	≤ 10% per serving (excludes reduced fat cheese)
-Trans Fat	≤ 0.5 grams/serving
Sugar	≤ 35% sugar by weight (excludes fruits, vegetables and milk)
Sodium	Snack: ≤ 230 mg/serving Entrée: ≤ 480 mg/serving

- Beverages sold on campus during school hours must be plain water, unflavored low-fat milk, flavored fat free milk and milk alternatives, or 100% fruit and vegetable juice. High schools may sale low and no calorie beverages, but must not contain more than 40 calories per 8 fl ounces, or 60 calories per 12 fl ounces.
- Beverages must be within the proper portion limits:
 - K-6 grades may sell up to 8 oz portions of milk and juice
 - 7-12 grades may sell up to 12 oz portions of milk and juice
 - There are no portion limits on plain water.

State Competitive Food Law

- State law restricts the sales of all food sold on campus beginning one hour before school lunch is served. All food sales (school stores, PTO sales, fundraisers during school hours, and/or vending machines) that students have access to must be turned off one hour before your first lunch period and cannot be turned back on until after the last lunch period.
- Foods of minimal nutritional value are not allowed in the cafeteria during meal periods. These foods include, but are not inclusive of, candy, carbonated beverages, fast food, and frozen desserts that contain less than 100% fruit juice. Food deliveries from commercial establishments are prohibited during serving periods.
- Student *A la Carte* sales of single meal components of the school meal program is prohibited in the state of Mississippi, unless the full meal unit is being purchased. Water and milk products are an exception to the state law, so students who bring a lunch from home may purchase water, milk or ice cream from their lunch account or with cash at the time of purchase.

Local School Wellness (School Board Policy EECB)

- Wellness is a part of Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards and the policy is enforced by school administrators and school health council coordinators.
- The use of foods as rewards for student accomplishment are prohibited.
- The wellness policy eliminates the withholding of food or physical activity as punishments.

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement – Civil Rights Policy and Complaint Procedure

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, and reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, and American Sign Language) should contact the responsible State or Local Agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at **(202) 720-2600** (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at **(800) 877-8339**.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online, at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling **(866) 632-9992**, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Jackson County School District

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