



Nutrition Services

By Cindy Hogenson, Nutrition Services Director

Important Reminders for Lunch Accounts and Summer Meal Programs

Parents are reminded to check each child's lunch account at the end of the year. Account information can be accessed by logging into the PowerSchool parent portal and clicking on SchoolPay. Parents should turn off low balance reminders and auto-payments for summer break. Payments can be made electronically in SchoolPay to cover any remaining negative balances.

To prepare for next school year, parents should be aware that account balances will carry over for returning students. For students leaving the district with \$10 or more in their account, households will automatically receive a refund in the mail at the end of the year. Requests for refunds, transfers to siblings, or donations of funds remaining in accounts are accommodated if made by June 15. Requests can be made by a listed guardian by going online to [Meal Account Request Form](#) or by calling the nutrition services office at 701.446.1152. Funds remaining in inactive accounts of departed students after June 15 will be donated to help struggling families with negative meal balances. The district will first check for siblings remaining in the district to transfer the funds to before making the donation.

Households may qualify for free school meals. Online applications for payment assistance may be **submitted after July 1** for the 2024-25 school year at EZMEALAPP.COM. If qualified, students can also receive school related fee waivers for school activities, national standardized tests (ACT, SAT, and AP exams), and college application fees at select universities.

There are opportunities for free meals and grocery assistance throughout the summer. Through the USDA's Summer Meals programs, approved sites throughout the community serve meals and snacks to children 18 and younger at no cost. For more information about locations and schedules, visit the [Summer Meals Site Finder](#) website. Additionally, North Dakota is launching Summer EBT, a new grocery benefits program that provides \$120 for each eligible school-age child to buy groceries while school is out. Households already participating in assistance programs such as SNAP, FDPIR, or TANF, will be automatically enrolled in the Summer EBT program. Households who are not automatically enrolled may still be eligible and can apply at [ND Summer EBT](#).

