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Houston County Child Nutrition
Eat Right – Future Bright

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PUBLIC RELEASE

Houston County School System announced its policy for free and reduced-price meals for children served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program. Beginning July 1, 2024, through May 31, 2025, the **Houston County School System** will participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). No further action is required of you. This USDA provision allows your child(ren) to participate in the school meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit a meal application.

CEP is a key provision of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which allows schools and school districts in low-income areas to eliminate school meal applications and **serve breakfast and lunch at no charge to the enrolled students**. CEP gives food service professionals more time to focus on preparing nutritious meals that their students will enjoy and gives students more time to eat those meals by cutting down on the time spent in the lunch line. More importantly, by offering all students a nutritious breakfast and lunch at no cost, CEP helps ensure more students come to class well-nourished and ready to learn.

Children need healthy meals to learn. Houston County School System offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast and lunch meals will follow the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidelines for healthy school meals, so please encourage students to participate. “In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age or disability.”

Parents or guardians who need more information may contact **Rachel Shelton, Child Nutrition Program Director at 931-289-4148 ext. 105 or email rshelton@houstonk12tn.net**

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   Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
   1400 Independence Avenue, SW
   Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. **fax:**
   (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442 or
3. **email:**
   Program.Intake@usda.gov

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