

Cafeteria Services (All Grade Levels)

The District participates in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program and offers students nutritionally balanced meals daily in accordance with standards set forth in state and federal law.

Free and reduced price meal status is based on financial need or household situation. Information about a student's participation is confidential; however, disclosure of a student's eligibility may be made without prior notice or consent to programs, activities, and individuals that are specifically authorized access under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA), which is the law that sets forth the disclosure limits for the District's child nutrition programs. A student's name, eligibility status, and other information may be disclosed to certain agencies as authorized under the NSLA to facilitate the enrollment of eligible children in Medicaid or the state children's health insurance program (CHIP) unless the student's parent notifies the District that a student's information should not be disclosed. A parent's decision will not affect the child's eligibility for free and reduced price meals. Other programs that your student may participate in (testing fees waived, PEBT, etc.) can be affected by their meal application status. Applications can be submitted online at [School Lunch App](#) and paper applications can be obtained from the school office or the Child Nutrition Department. Parents can also check eligibility status online, at [School Lunch Status](#), after your application for meal benefits has been submitted and processed with Aledo ISD. You must submit an application each year to be considered for free or reduced price meals. Even if your child received free or reduced price meals last year, you must submit a new application this year. Application information is strictly confidential and is not available to students or teachers.

School Meals

Children need well-balanced, nutritious meals to maintain health and be successful in school. Aledo ISD Cafeterias serve a healthy breakfast and lunch every school day. Meals and snacks are analyzed for nutrition content, age appropriate calories and contain no more than 30% average fat. School meals also provide a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, limited fats/sodium and contain many sources of whole grains and calcium. Our staff is proud to serve and educate your students about healthy food choices. More information about our program and further nutritional education resources are available at [Aledo ISD Cafeteria Services](#).

School Meals include a choice of 3-5 food items for same price: protein, whole grain, fruit, vegetable and milk. **Students choosing a School Meal will be required to choose a fruit or vegetable as one of their tray items at Breakfast and Lunch per USDA regulations.** A complete breakfast is \$2.00 and a complete lunch is: Elem \$3.25/MS \$3.50/DNG \$3.75/AHS \$3.75 to \$4.75. *Menus are available on the [Aledo ISD Cafeteria Services](#) and AISD mobile app/Lunch Menus.* Healthy snacks and ala carte items that comply with USDA Smart Snacks are also available for purchase at an additional cost (doesn't apply to ECA). ECA meal pattern adjusted slightly for age group. ECA PK lunch: \$3.25/ECA CC lunch: \$3.00

Free/Reduced Meal Program

NEW THIS YEAR: Texas legislature voted to cover the cost for reduced-price breakfast for school years 23-24 and 24-25. REDUCED PRICE BREAKFAST WILL BE AT NO COST TO STUDENTS WHO QUALIFY (REDUCED PRICE LUNCH IS .40). Free or reduced price meals are available based on financial need through the National School Lunch/Breakfast Program. Applications can be submitted online at [School Lunch App](#) and paper applications can be obtained from the school office or the Child Nutrition Department. Parents can also check eligibility status online, at [School Lunch Status](#), after your application for meal benefits has been submitted and processed with Aledo ISD. You must submit an application each year to be considered for free or reduced price meals. Even if your child received free or reduced price meals last year, you must submit a new application this year. Students without a new application on file after the prior year grace period will pay full price. Application information is strictly confidential and is not available to students or teachers.

Charging Policy

If a student has no lunch and no money and comes through the serving line, the cafeteria will provide them with a nutritious School Meal. **However, if the student's account reaches the charge limit of -\$15.00, the student can be provided with an emergency Snack Meal** (students should see Cafeteria Manager). ***The district will make every effort to avoid bringing attention to such a student.*** Students with a negative cafeteria balance will not be allowed to purchase snacks or extras until their balance is current. Negative balances will be communicated to parents via Parent Link email and/or letter to household address on file. Low and negative balances are communicated to students when possible but students/parents are responsible for monitoring cafeteria account balances (see Payment Options to setup automatic low balance email notifications). If your family is experiencing financial difficulties, please contact us to set up payment arrangements. We can also assist you in applying for free or reduced price meal benefits. Cafeteria account balances must be paid in full by year end.

Students must have cash or funds in their café account to be able to purchase snacks or extras. Low and negative balances are communicated to students when possible, but students/parents are responsible for monitoring cafeteria account balances (see Payment Options to setup automatic low balance email notifications).

Payment Options

We encourage all parents/students to prepay money into their account to help lunch lines move faster and to avoid lost/forgotten lunch money. *When sending cash or check, please include the student name and ID number.* In an effort to serve you better, AISD has included a parent online credit card payment system through [MySchoolBucks](#) online or Aledo ISD mobile app. You can make credit card payments to your student's cafeteria account online for a small convenience fee. The system will

also allow parents to view student cafeteria account balances and purchases at no charge as well as set up free, automatic, low balance email notifications and auto pay. **Remember to allow at least 3 days for your online payment to post to your student's account (and up to 10 days if e-check is used).** For further details, please go to the [Aledo ISD Webpage/Cafeteria Services](#).

- Graduating Seniors/Withdrawn Students – call Cafeteria Services office at 817-441-5142 to get a refund or transfer funds to a sibling.
- Money left on accounts will roll over with student next year.
- Transferring funds between siblings' accounts may be done any time by calling the AISD Child Nutrition Dept. office at 817-441-5142.

Special Dietary Needs

If your child has a food allergy or special dietary needs, please contact the School Nurse for a copy of *Guidelines for Students with Special Dietary Needs*. Special dietary needs that comply with the *Guidelines* will be communicated to the Cafeteria (by the School Nurse) and noted in our system to alert staff so that we may help monitor your student's needs. Withdrawn/re-enrolled students need to see Nurse to have special dietary needs reinstated in cafeteria system. Aledo ISD has elected not to sell peanuts or peanut-based products in our school cafeterias. However, it is possible that some products sold in school cafeterias may be manufactured in facilities that produce peanut products. Students are free to bring peanut products from home for their own consumption.

Allergen information on menu items: go to <https://aledoisdschoolmenus.com> enter campus/meal info to view menus. Click nutrients tab/nutrient report card to view allergens and nutrient info.

Parent Preference - Account Restrictions

PK-5 ONLY: Please notify the Child Nutrition Office in writing (with phone #) if you would like to limit your child's purchases so we can program limits into their account via a pop-up message (limit 20 characters). Pop up messages (except medical notes) are purged yearly. The Child Nutrition staff will do their best to monitor your student's choices.

PK-12: Parents can disable their child's café account (no purchases allowed), call AISD Child Nutrition Dept. for assistance at 817-441-5142.

Nutrition Policies

US Department of Agriculture and TX Department of Agriculture administers policies to promote a healthy school environment. Please refer to [Square Meals](#) or call the AISD Child Nutrition Dept. for further info. Policy highlights:

- On an annual basis, campus Principals will designate specific dates for up to 4 campus-wide parties.
- During meal times, Parents/Guardians/Staff may provide any foods/beverages for

their own child but may not provide restricted foods or beverages to other students. Students cannot have food delivered from off-campus vendors.

- Food fundraisers and snacks for testing days are subject to policy compliance at all levels and must be approved by campus Principal.
- Food may only be provided if it is connected to an instructionally supported lesson or other activity with the approval of the campus Principal.

[Vending Machines \(All Grade Levels\)](#)

The District has adopted and implemented the state and federal policies and guidelines for food service, including the guidelines to restrict student access to vending machines. For more information regarding these policies and guidelines, see Director of Child Nutrition. [See policies at [CO](#) and [FFA](#).]