



# Clayton County Public Schools

Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!

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## ADVISORY

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Division of Communications, Public Relations, Marketing & Strategic Improvement

July 18, 2025

### CCPS Shares Guidance on Fees for 2025-26 Online School Meal Payments

**Note: The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which provides all students with free breakfast, lunch, and snack, remains in effect in Clayton County Public Schools. Students will continue to receive these meals at no cost. However, any additional food items beyond the standard reimbursable meal will be subject to a charge. Please refer to the guidance below for more details.**

**JONESBORO** - Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is sharing updated guidance regarding electronic payments for school meals, based on new rules from the USDA.

Families will be charged a small fee when using the LINQ online system to add money to student meal accounts to pay for extra food items. CCPS will continue to ensure that all families have access to a free and easy way to pay, such as sending cash directly to the school.

“We are committed to making sure all students have access to nutritious meals, and that families are fully informed about their options,” said Audrey Hamilton, Executive Director of Nutrition Services. “Our goal is to support student success while keeping things simple and accessible for all families.”

- Every school must offer a no-cost method for families to pay for EXTRA food items.
- Schools will provide the cash option for families without internet or bank access.

Families will be informed of all payment options at the start of the school year. Fee notifications can be found on the school menu pages, the nutrition webpage, at the school cashier stations, and the LINQ online payment portal.

Please see a copy of the Parent Notification Letter below:

#### Parent Notification Letter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We want to make you aware of an important update regarding how school meal payments can be made.

Starting this school year, families may be charged a small processing fee when using online payment systems to add money to student meal accounts. However, Clayton County Public Schools will continue to offer free and easy options, such as sending cash with your child to school or visiting the school to pay the nutrition department directly.

Here's what you need to know:

- You do not have to use the online system—you can still send payments to the school with no extra fees.
- If you don't have a bank account or computer access, we will ensure you still have a way to make payments that works for your situation.
- If you choose to pay online, know that you will be assessed a card fee.

**Our goal is to keep meal access simple and affordable. If you have any questions or need help, please contact your school's cafeteria manager or the Nutrition Services Department at (678) 479-0171**

**Sincerely,  
Audrey Hamilton  
Executive Director of Nutrition Services  
Clayton County Public Schools**

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In accordance with federal civil rights 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 (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, 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.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, 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 for 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:

1. mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. email:

[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**-An official document from the Clayton County Public School System-**

**About Clayton County Public Schools:** Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by Cognia. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 50,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the sixth-largest school system in Georgia.

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