



TISD Child Nutrition Frequently Asked Questions

- **Did You Know?**

TISD Child Nutrition employs approximately 20 people.

The Child Nutrition Department is self-supporting. Revenue sources include government reimbursement for student meals served, government commodities, paid student meals, ala carte sales, and adult paid meals.

The only local school district funds utilized are for construction of cafeterias in new schools and kitchen remodels on older campuses.

- **Who administers and regulates the school nutrition services in Tarkington ISD?**

The Tarkington ISD Child Nutrition Department is administered by Kristy Fruia, Director of Child Nutrition. Tarkington ISD participates in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program, both which are administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In addition, the Child Nutrition Department follows the regulations of the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), local health departments and the Board of Trustees.

- **How much taxpayer money is used to operate the Child Nutrition Department?**

The Child Nutrition Department is a self-sustaining operation. No funds from the Tarkington ISD General Funds are used in the operation of the Child Nutrition Department. The Child Nutrition Department receives money from the federal government under the National School Lunch Program.

- **How can I make deposits to my child's account?**

Prepaying for lunch and ala carte items is an efficient way to pay for your student's meals. You may pay by check or cash. However, if paying by check, please include your student's name and account number in the memo section of your check.

You may also pay on your student's account by making a payment to Schoolcafe.com. This is a secure, online site for payments made on student's accounts with Visa or MasterCard and payments can be made anytime of the day. This fast and friendly service also allows you to view your student's meal transactions without cost or having to make a deposit. Simply sign up!

Cash or check deposits on an account can be made anytime the cafeteria is open for business.

- **What is the district's policy on charging?**

The goal of Child Nutrition is to provide healthy balanced meals for students that meet the requirements established by USDA and Texas Department of Agriculture. Students without money will receive up to 5 meals charged, not to exceed monetary equivalent at appropriate grade level. Parents/guardians will be notified of meal charges by email or postal mail. Students with an excess of 5 meals will receive a reimbursable meal of the following; sandwich, fruit and milk. Cashiers will remind a student if money on their account is running low.

- **Why did my child receive a sandwich and milk for lunch?**

Your student may have been served a sandwich and milk for lunch instead of the regular menu lunch due to lack of funds on their account. It is the policy of Tarkington ISD Child Nutrition to replace the regular meal with a sandwich and milk at no cost to the student if the student has charged to their limit on their account.

- **What happens if someone uses my child's account?**

Student meal account numbers are the student's ID number. This number should be kept confidential and should not be shared with other students. If the number is used by someone other than the legitimate holder, the register will notify the cashier that the number has already been used for the purchase of a meal for that day. If this should happen, the cafeteria manager will take the necessary steps to rectify the situation. A parent may always ask for a report on their child's account. To make this request, please contact the cafeteria manager. Student's accounts may also be viewed by the parent on SchoolCafe.

- **What happens to my child's money at the end of the school year?**

If your child has money left on his/her account at the end of the year, the money will be available on the first day of school the following year. Account balances follow the student from year to year.

- **How do I get a refund?**

If you want a refund on your child's account, fill out the refund request form or make this request in person at the school's cafeteria.

- **What if my child is allergic to milk, peanuts, etc.?**

If your child has a food allergy, a doctor's note must be on file with the cafeteria stating the allergy. If replacing one food with another, this too must be included in the doctor's letter. For example, if the child has a milk allergy, then the doctor's note must include that milk is to be replaced with juice or water. Special diet needs prescribed by doctors for medical reasons must have written doctor orders and a copy of recommended diet. In these cases, please contact the Child Nutrition Department.

- **What does "offer vs. serve" mean?**

Offer versus serve was established in October 1975 when Public Law 94-105 mandated that students in high school would not be required to accept offered foods they did not intend to consume. At the middle school and elementary levels, the policy is optional and it is up to each individual district to decide whether they wish to extend offer vs. serve to the middle or elementary level. Tarkington ISD Child Nutrition has chosen to NOT extend offer vs. serve at the Early Childhood Campus.

The five components of the meal include:

Meat or meat alternate

Fruit

Vegetable

Bread and grains

Milk

As long as the student takes three of the five items, one of which MUST be a fruit or vegetable, the meal will be counted as a complete meal and eligible for reimbursement.

- **Who do I contact if I need help?**

TISD Child Nutrition Director Kristy Fruia at 346-532-2013 or email kfruia@tarkingtonisd.net.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.