

PINE PLAINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2829 CHURCH STREET • PINE PLAINS, NEW YORK 12567-5504

TEL: (518) 398-7181 FAX: (518) 398-6592

WWW.PPCSD.ORG

MEAL SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) aim to provide all participating children, regardless of background, with the nutritious meals they need to be healthy. This includes ensuring children with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the NSLP and SBP.

Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to those children whose disability restricts their diet in such a way that they cannot fully participate in the food service program without some modification to the foods offered or the scheduled menu. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please get in touch with us for further information. You must request meal modifications from the school and provide the school with a medical statement from a State licensed healthcare professional. This medical statement must contain but is not limited to the following:

- **Information about the child's physical or mental impairment that is sufficient to allow the school to understand how it restricts the child's diet,**
- **An explanation of what must be done to accommodate the child's special dietary need,**
- **The food or foods to be omitted and recommended alternatives, in the case of a modified meal**

If you have questions regarding the need for meal modifications, contact for further information.

Michael Angelo Dandola
Food Service Director
Pine Plains Central School District
518.398.7181 ext. 1351

We are proud to share that for the 2025–2026 school year, all students in all Pine Plains schools will continue to receive breakfast and lunch at no cost, thanks to the District's ongoing participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). This program ensures that every student has access to one free breakfast and one free lunch each day school is in session, regardless of family income. No application is required to receive these meals.

Meal Pricing for Additional Purchases

While one breakfast and one lunch are provided daily at no charge, additional meals may be purchased at the following rates:

- Breakfast: \$1.75 (all schools)
- Lunch: \$2.75 (Cold Spring Early Learning Center and Seymour Smith)
- Lunch: \$3.00 (Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School)

À la carte items, such as snacks, bottled water, extra entrées, and other individual items, are not

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covered by CEP and are available for purchase separately. Any outstanding meal debt incurred before the start of the program will remain the responsibility of the family.

Even though meals are free for all, we encourage all families to complete the annual income verification form, available on our website or from your school's main office. Completing this form helps the District secure important funding and may also qualify your family for additional benefits, including:

- Reduced-cost internet
- Academic testing fee waivers
- College application discounts
- Other community-based services

Eat Local, Eat Well: Our 30% NY Initiative

This year, Pine Plains CSD proudly continues its commitment to fresh, local food through our participation in the 30% NY Initiative, which rewards schools that source at least 30% of their ingredients from New York State farms and producers.

We've partnered with:

- Cornell Cooperative Extension (30% NY Farm to School Initiative)
- Milestone Mills (Local Bread, Flour, Cornmeal, Tortilla Chips)
- Bread Alone Bakery (Local Whole Wheat Bread)
- Red Barn Provisions (Local NY Products & Meats)
- Red Barn Produce (Local NY Produce & Meats)
- Slate Foods (Local NY Products & Beef)
- Morning Star Poultry (Local Poultry)
- Hudson Harvest (Local NY Produce)
- Dagele Brothers (Local NY Produce & USA)
- Hudson Valley Egg (Local Eggs)
- Hudson Valley Fresh (Local Milk)
- Hudson Valley Fishery (Local Steel Head Trout)
- Happy Valley Meat (Local Beef)
- Highland Farm (Venison, Game Meat, Ostrich Eggs)

Through these partnerships, we're introducing freshly milled NY grains, locally baked breads, chicken, beef, fish, eggs and seasonal produce into our daily menus. Our students will enjoy scratch-cooked, wholesome meals made with pride, while supporting New York's agricultural economy.

Buy American Initiative & The Chef's Garden

We're also deepening our commitment to the Buy American Provision, ensuring that the majority of our food is grown, raised, and produced in the United States, supporting sustainability and local industry. We're honored to partner with The Chef's Garden, led by Farmer Lee Jones, a nationally recognized leader in regenerative farming. His family farm grows

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some of the most nutrient-dense and flavorful vegetables in the world, all cultivated with care for the land and future generations.

Farmer Lee says it best:

“We’re not just growing vegetables, we’re growing health. Children deserve food that’s alive, flavorful, and grown with love.”

Through this partnership, Pine Plains students will experience vibrant seasonal vegetables like rainbow carrots, microgreens, and heirloom herbs, grown with the same care and passion used by some of the top Michelin star chefs in the country. We believe every child deserves access to nutritious, high-quality meals that fuel their minds and bodies. Whether discovering a new favorite dish, tasting fresh NY produce, or simply enjoying a warm, made-from-scratch meal, school meals are a vital part of the day, and they’re completely free of charge. We encourage families to support this program by having their children participate regularly in school meals. It’s an investment in their health, education, and our local community. If you have any questions or would like more information, please don’t hesitate to reach out.

Warm regards,

Michael Angelo Dandola, C.I.A. ’13
Food Service Director
Pine Plains Central School District
Office: (518) 398-7181 ext. 1351

Nondiscrimination Statement:

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/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-

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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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.