



Updated November 3, 2025

Brooklyn Center Community Schools is committed to providing students with nutritious, high-quality meals that meet all state and federal requirements. Over the last several months, the district has been exploring ways to ensure our Night Feed Dinner Program meets or exceeds requirements and meets the needs of our families. With the recent pause to federal SNAP benefits, we are offering updated resources, access to food supplies through community partners, and programming to our families.

What's Changing

The district will transition from serving hot entrée meals (such as cheeseburgers, pizza, and corn dogs) to pre-packaged cold meal options. These new options will include fresh sandwiches, wraps, and salads that meet all nutritional standards for school meal programs. We make this transition to ensure the long-term sustainability of this program, maintain eligibility for reimbursement from state and federal funding, and to align all menu items with approved nutrition standards.

Our Goal

Our goal is to always provide students with nutritious, well-rounded meals that nourish both their bodies and their minds, fueling their learning. Each pre-packaged meal is carefully designed to be filling, flavorful, and aligned with nutrition standards. These meals include a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and dairy — helping students meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA),



By offering cold, ready-to-eat options, we're supporting:

- Program sustainability, ensuring we can continue offering dinner to all students who need it
- Public health priorities, reinforcing lifelong healthy eating habits
- Student well-being, through meals that meet or exceed federal and state standards

What Students Can Expect

Students can expect balanced, nutritious options for dinner. Each meal will include all required food components: whole grain, protein, fruit, vegetable, and milk. Our dinner menus have been updated to rotate throughout the week to include a variety of wraps, sandwiches, and salads prepared daily.

Frequently Asked Questions or Concerns

- **“I’m worried these new meals will not have enough food.”** Each meal is designed to meet USDA portion and calorie requirements for school-aged children. The portions are balanced to provide a complete and filling meal.
- **“I don’t think cold food is a real dinner.”** Nutritious meals come in many forms. Cold entrées like salads and wraps are safe, easy to serve, and nutritionally complete for young people.
- **“I know my students and kids won’t eat it.”** We know change takes time. Students may need time to adjust, but consistent exposure and positive modeling from adults make a difference. When staff encourage participation, students are more likely to try and enjoy new items.
- **“Don’t kids expect fast food for dinner?”** Our responsibility is to help shape healthier expectations. The school meal program is not designed to mimic fast food — it’s designed to nourish students and teach lifelong habits.

Resources for Families

Brooklyn Center Community Schools recognizes that food access is an essential part of student success. In addition to our onsite Night Feed program, families can access several community resources for food support:

- Family Resource Rooms onsite at each of our buildings for access to select groceries
- Every Meal – This program provides students with weekend meals to take home. Contact your school's Family Resource Room to get connected to this program.
- Local Food Shelves
 - CAPI (Community Advancing Prosperity for Immigrants) -6064 Shingle Creek Pkwy Brooklyn Center, MN 55430; (612) 721-0122
 - CEAP (Community Emergency Assistance Programs) – 7051 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Center
 - Brooklyn United Methodist Church - 7200 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Center
 - Second Harvest Heartland - Review website for locations
 - NorthPoint Food Shelf – 1835 Penn Ave N, Minneapolis
 - PRISM Food Shelf – 1220 Zane Ave N, Golden Valley
 - Salvation Army Brooklyn Park – 10011 Noble Pkwy N, Brooklyn Park

Families are encouraged to use these resources as needed to ensure consistent access to healthy meals at home and after school. For those requiring appointments, call and schedule now as food shelves are expecting higher than normal volume of clients.