

Food & Nutrition Services (*School Breakfast and Lunch Programs*)

General Information

We “*fuel successful learning*” by providing **healthy scratch cooked meals** and **salad bars at each school, every day**. District 51 participates in the [Nourish Colorado School Meal Initiative](#) providing scratch cooking, culinary training & resources for all Food Service staff. All District 51 [menus](#) receive annual nutrient analysis performed by our Registered Dietician and exceed the USDA nutrition guidelines. Students at all grade levels are required to receive a minimum of ½ cup of fruit and/or ½ cup of vegetables with meals. See www.myplate.gov for further information. For D51 Menu click [here](#).

Healthy School Meals for All - Colorado’s Healthy School Meals for All program (breakfast and lunch) is currently only funded for the first half of the school year. Participation statewide has exceeded the original 2022 ballot amount. If the proposed Colorado HSMA ballot measures LL & MM do not pass in November, several schools in Mesa County will no longer have FREE healthy school meals for all starting in January 2026. For more information on the two ballots please go to the HSMA [Fact Sheet](#).

It remains important for families to complete the [Family Application for Benefits](#). Families who meet the criteria and submit the application may also qualify for additional benefits or discounted district fees, including:

- Discounted utility and internet
- Waived curricular fees
- Discounted AP test fees
- Discounted bus passes
- Summer EBT

Family Application for Benefits online process begins July 8th 2025. Parents without internet access can pick up the paper application at any school or the Nutrition Services Office at 2280 E. Main Street, Grand Junction. A new application must be completed each year. If your household has received a letter for the current school year stating your students have been approved for benefits under the **Direct Certification process, there is no need to complete an application. If you have additional students in your household for whom you did not receive a Directly Certified letter for, please contact the Nutrition Services Department at NutritionServices@d51schools.org or by calling 970-254-5181.**

All income details provided through this document are confidential and safeguarded by Colorado law. Only one application needs to be completed for all children within an [eligible household](#). When filling out this form, immigration status, migrant status, citizenship, and refugee status are not required. If you have questions about completing this application, please contact the Nutrition Services Department at NutritionServices@d51schools.org or 970-254-5181

Students wishing to purchase a second meal, extra milk or other additional items will need to have funds available in their cafeteria account for the purchase. Middle schools and high schools offer an increased assortment of entrée choices including: hot entrée, deli sandwiches, pizzas, salad bars & hamburgers. Milk without a meal is **not** free. Students who bring a meal from home and would like to purchase a milk will need to have funds available in their cafeteria account. Payments to cafeteria accounts can either be made at the cafeteria with a check or cash or online through [My Payments Plus](#).

Notification Regarding Special Dietary Guidelines for Students with Food Allergies

Please refer to the [district website](#) for the latest requirements for students with Special Dietary Needs. For daily menu and allergens go to the [Nutrition Services Menu Webpage](#).

Non-discrimination Statement: In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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MESA COUNTY VALLEY SD 51 CAFETERIA CHARGE STANDARD PROCEDURES

Purpose

The District is committed to ensuring that all students receive the nutrition they need to engage in active learning during the school day. In accordance with applicable guidance from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), this procedure is intended to serve the purposes of meeting student needs and maintaining the fiscal integrity of the District's school food service account.

Student Cafeteria Accounts

Student cafeteria accounts shall be established by the School Food Authority (SFA). Funds may be added to the account with either check or cash payments at the school or through the District's online payment system (www.mypaymentsplus.com). Parents may call the Nutrition Services Office at 970-254-5181 to make a payment over the phone. Students may also pay for purchases and/or add funds to accounts on the day of service with a check or cash.

All students can receive one free breakfast and one free lunch every school day at participating schools. Students will need funds on their account for ala carte or "extra" items, such as milk, additional entrées or if they request a second meal. Milk without a meal is not free.

Students with unused credit in their accounts at the point of disenrollment or graduation may request a refund of the credit.

NOTE: All adult meals, including employees of D51, are required to be pre-paid or paid in full at the time of purchase.

Notification of Low or Insufficient Funds

Notification of a negative balance on a student cafeteria account will be provided privately to the parent(s) via email, letters or automated phone call reminders.

Cafeteria debt that was incurred prior to implementation of Healthy School Meals for All (anything prior to the 2023-24 school year) will continue to be collected.

Collection of Meal Charge Debt

Delinquent Debt: As defined by the USDA, delinquent debt includes overdue balances with active, reasonable efforts being made to collect the outstanding amount due. Mesa County Valley SD 51 considers student meal accounts with a negative balance to be in delinquent status.

- **Uncollectable and Bad Debt:** Delinquent debts that have been determined to be uncollectible will be reclassified as "bad debt". Graduating senior accounts are classified as bad debt as of the last day of May following graduation. Mesa County Valley SD 51 also classifies student accounts as "bad debt" when collection efforts have been unsuccessful for twelve (12) months after a student has left the District. Repayment of "bad debt" is an unallowable expense for the NSFSA; therefore, payment for this bad debt balance will come from other sources such as: The District's general fund, Special funding from state or local governments, or donations.

Donations: Regardless of their source, monies received through D51 Nutrition Services as donations to pay off negative meal balances will be deposited into a District account set up specifically for meal account donations. Donations will be distributed annually at the end of the fiscal year (June 30) and applied to all accounts identified as bad debt. Any excess donated funds not used on bad debt in the current year, will be carried over to the next fiscal year.

Refunds: Families may request a refund of the student(s) meal account(s) at any time by contacting the school cafeteria or the Nutrition Services Office at 970-254-5181.