

2026-2027 Lumberton ISD Child Nutrition Student Handbook

Welcome to the 2026-2027 School Year!

Staff members in the LISD Child Nutrition (CN) Department are looking forward to another great year. We value the opportunity to participate in your child's education and nutritional experiences. Our goal is to provide balanced and nutritious meals while promoting positive food habits at a minimum cost.

The CN Department operates under the agreement with the Texas Department of Agriculture for the school breakfast and lunch programs. Under this agreement, we comply with state and federal guidelines and strive to provide quality food and nutrition for our students.

LISD Child Nutrition staff members work hard at keeping up to date with new developments in the field of Child Nutrition by taking continuing education classes and attending workshops. School Child Nutrition is an investment in education because it directly benefits the youth of our nation. Proper nutrition provides the fuel, which provides the energy and mental alertness to make learning possible. Our CN staff welcomes input and involvement of students, parents, and faculty as we strive to continually strengthen our department.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact your student's Kitchen Manager or LISD Child Nutrition Office.

Early Childhood Kitchen: 409-923-7627
Primary Kitchen: 409-923-7420
Intermediate Kitchen: 409-923-7525
Middle School Kitchen: 409-923-7739
High School Raider Country: 409-923-7854
High School Millennium: 409-923-7887
Child Nutrition Office: 409-923-7441

Reimbursable Meal Prices

	Breakfast	Lunch
Student (Pre-K – 2 nd grade)	\$2.25	\$4.00
Student (3 rd – 12 th grade)	\$2.50	\$4.25
Staff.....	\$4.00	\$5.00
Visitor.....	\$4.00	\$5.50

Menus are posted in cafeterias, classrooms, and are also available online at <http://www.lumbertonisd.org>.

Free & Reduced Meal Applications

We are in the process of collecting meal applications for all eligible students for the upcoming school year. You must reapply even if your child(ren) has been on the program in the past, unless you received the Direct Certification Notification.

Free and reduced meal applications may be completed online via schoolcafe.com. Paper applications are also available and may be returned to the Child Nutrition office or to your child's kitchen manager. If you have any questions, need internet access, or a paper application, please call (409) 923-7441.

Attention Parents

Please assist the CN Department in our efforts to provide meals for your child(ren) by sending the correct amount of money, either daily or through the purchase of pre-paid meal accounts on School Café.

For your convenience, we recommend prepayments of meals. Account balances roll forward from month to month if all of the meal account money is not used. When you are notified of meal charges, please pay promptly. We encourage parents to pay online as it makes tracking possible errors much easier to find and correct, rather than cash payment. Visit schoolcafe.com to manage your child's account online.

Charge Policy

The goal of the Lumberton ISD Child Nutrition Department is to ensure that all students have access to nutritious meals that support their health and academic success. Federal regulations require that when a district allows prepayment to student meal accounts, it must establish a grace period during which students may continue to receive meals after prepaid funds have been exhausted. Lumberton ISD allows limited charging of reimbursable meals only.

Charge Limits

- Pre-K through 5th grade students may charge reimbursable meals up to \$60.00.
- 6th through 12th grade students may charge reimbursable meals up to \$30.00.

Once a student reaches the charge limit, an emergency meal will be provided and charged at \$1.00 for breakfast or \$2.00 for lunch. An emergency breakfast consists of a grain, fruit, and milk, while an emergency lunch consists of an entrée, fruit, and milk. Charging is not permitted for extra items, à la carte items, or second meals.

The Child Nutrition Department will make every effort to notify households of negative balances through automated phone calls, ParentSquare messages, emails, and, when necessary, direct communication from cafeteria managers or the Child Nutrition Office. Parents are encouraged to monitor meal account balances through SchoolCafe' and promptly pay any outstanding charges. To assist with collecting outstanding balances before the end of the school year, charging privileges may be suspended during the final weeks of school, with advance notice provided to families.

District Withdrawal

Upon graduation or withdrawal, parents or guardians may contact the Child Nutrition Office to request a refund of any remaining balance in the student's cafeteria account. Families also have the option to transfer the remaining funds to another student account or donate the balance to the district's Angel Fund, which is used to assist students in need. If no request is made within 30 days of withdrawal or graduation, the account will be closed and the remaining funds will be automatically transferred to the Angel Fund.

Online Payments – School Cafe

The online system can make it easier for staff, parents, and students. Deposit money into the account and money will be deducted as your child makes purchases. The system will maintain a running balance of each student account. Charges are tracked and are shown as negative balances.

Visit schoolcafe.com to create your account. There is a \$2.50 fee to utilize this charge card system. SchoolCafe' gives you the ability to deposit funds into more than one student's account during a single transaction. Using this site, you can also sign up to receive free low balance notification emails. Parents have the ability to check their student(s) recent meal transactions for free using SchoolCafe'. Parents may request a printout of their child(ren)'s account at any time by contacting the cafeteria manager.

Account Flags & Alerts

Parents may request that their child's account be flagged by contacting the Child Nutrition office. Parents may also set limitations on their students' accounts by utilizing the SchoolCafe' program via schoolcafe.com. The Child Nutrition Department has the ability to flag accounts at any time.

Children with Special Needs

A diet modification form must be signed by a Physician or Medical Authority and returned directly to the Child Nutrition office yearly. This form is the only documentation that will be accepted for those students with allergies or other medical food restrictions. Forms must contain complete information as to restrictions and a list of possible substitutions. This form must also be completed for allergies and intolerances. Physician must list possible substitutions for these students as well. Forms are available online on our webpage. Printed copies are available at each campus as well as in the Child Nutrition office.

Upon receipt of completed form, your child(ren)'s account(s) will be flagged to alert cashiers to dietary substitutions or restrictions. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the CN Department receives this documentation and to verify receipt of this information. LISD CN Department is not responsible or liable for misdirected documentation.

Offer versus Serve

"Offer vs. Serve" means that students are offered at least five items at lunch and at least four items at breakfast, and they may choose to be served only three. (Exception: Pre-K must take all items offered on tray). This helps students to have a selection without having excess food waste due to preferences and varying hunger levels. Students are encouraged to take the full menu, but it is ultimately their decision. Students must choose at least ½ cup fruit or vegetable for their meal to qualify as a reimbursable meal.

The five school lunch components are: meat, vegetable, fruit, grain, and milk. The four school breakfast components are: milk, fruit or fruit juice, one grain item, one meat item, or two grain items.

Importance of Breakfast

A nutritious breakfast helps students start the day ready to learn. Research shows that students who eat breakfast are more attentive, concentrate better, learn more effectively, have more energy, are absent less often, make fewer visits to the nurse, and generally have more positive attitudes throughout the school day.

Parent Eating from Child's Tray

LISD/TDA/USDA encourage parental involvement. However, parents or other adult family members may not eat off of a child's reimbursable meal tray. This meal is considered to be part of the student's nutrition during the school day. Parents or other adult family members may purchase a meal or may bring an outside meal for themselves. If parents or other family members eats from their child's tray, the CN staff is required to disallow reimbursable meal and will charge the parent the visitor's meal pricing for tray.

Information contained in this handbook is those that are addressed frequently and are not limited in those practices and procedures followed by this Department.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, 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, audiotape, 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](http://www.fns.usda.gov/3027) 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:

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; fax: 202-690-7442; or email: Program.Intake@usda.gov.

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