

Hattiesburg Public Schools - Child Nutrition

Action Required: 2026-2027 School Meal Program Updates

For the past several years, Hattiesburg Public Schools has participated in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), a federal program that provides free breakfast and lunch to all students without collecting individual meal applications. While the district did not meet the threshold necessary to continue CEP districtwide for the 2026-2027 school year, we have identified an alternative approach that will allow all students to continue receiving meals at no cost while maintaining financial sustainability. The following schools will continue to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and will provide breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students without the need for a meal application:

- Grace Christian
- Hawkins
- Rowan
- Thames
- N.R. Burger
- STEAM Academy
- Lillie Burney

Hattiesburg High and Woodley Elementary will participate in the **Provision 2 Program** for the 2026-2027 school year. Under **Provision 2**, all students attending these schools will continue to receive breakfast and lunch at no charge to the student. However, federal requirements mandate that the parent or guardian of every student attending **Hattiesburg High and/or Woodley Elementary complete and submit a meal application form**. These applications are critical for determining eligibility and ensuring the district receives the funding necessary to support student services and meal programs.

The sustainability of this alternative approach depends on families completing meal applications and the district maintaining the participation levels required by federal meal programs. If the district is unable to meet required participation levels, **all schools** may be required to return to a traditional meal program. In that case, meal eligibility would be determined by household income, and some students may be required to pay reduced-price or full-price meal costs.

Free meals will be offered to all students as long as it is financially viable. The program may be stopped at any time. **A Free/Reduced Meal Application is NEEDED by every Hattiesburg High and Woodley Elementary household to secure funds for this free meal program.**

Don't wait—complete your application now at:

https://www.myschoolapps.com/Home/DistrictRedirect/HATTIESBURG_MS?langid=1

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