

Fayette County Schools

Child Nutrition Program

Parent Brochure

The administration of the Fayette County School System believes that good nutrition is very important to learning and that every child has the right to nutritious meals. The Fayette County School Lunch Program is required to meet The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 and The Alabama State Wellness Guidelines.

Students select **three or more** of the menu items offered: entrée, vegetable, fruit, bread, and milk for lunch and three or more of the four menu items offered for breakfast. **Students must select at least ½ cup vegetable or fruit at lunch and breakfast.** They may also purchase additional items along with the meal. These are extra sale items and prices of these items are subject to change. Please encourage your child to make good food choices, practice portion control and exercise daily.

Competing foods are not allowed in the lunchroom during meal service.

Students should not bring in food from outside sources (restaurants or snack machines). Students are permitted to bring lunch from home if the lunch is in a lunchbox or plain (no logo) paper bag. Students are not allowed to leave campus during breakfast or lunch. If you do choose to send a lunch from home, please make sure it is a nutritious lunch with fruits and vegetables. Cafeteria purchases must be paid for in advance (at the point of service or at LINQConnect.com). You may deposit daily, weekly, monthly or yearly in your child's lunch account.

Fayette County Child Nutrition Charge Policy

It is the intent of the Fayette County Board of Education to provide an opportunity for every student to eat a nutritious breakfast and lunch during the school day. It is also the intent of the Fayette County Board of Education to comply with all federal program regulations pertaining to the National School Breakfast and National School Lunch programs. Employees and guests must remit payment for meals at the time of service. Employees/Guests may not charge meals. Employees may have an active meal account from which to purchase their meals.

Cafeteria purchases can and should be paid for in advance or at the point of service. Each student will have a meal account for monies to be deposited throughout the year. Students will NOT be denied a meal. However, no charges will be allowed for à la carte items or extras. Parents will be notified nightly of any negative balance on their child's school meal account. However, a nonpublic fund source must be established at each school to cover any uncollected debts. It is the responsibility of the Child Nutrition Manager at each school to notify the principal of any unpaid debts on a weekly basis and at the end of the school year.

Meal account deposits paid by check must have the student's name, lunch number and phone number on the check. Please write separate checks for each student. Meal account deposits may also be made online at LINQConnect.com.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Fayette County Board of Education of Education will continue to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision program for the 2026-2027 school year. This program allows ALL Fayette County School District students to eat breakfast and lunch at NO CHARGE. ALL reimbursable school meals will continue to be FREE to our students for the 2026-2027 school year!

Free/Reduced Meal Applications

Free/Reduced meal applications are NOT required for the 2026-2027 school year.

Lunch menus are posted in all schools and at
www.fayette.k12.al.us/departments/child-nutrition-program/menus

Breakfast Prices

All Students... NO COST
Adult Employee...\$3.25
Visitor...\$4.50

Lunch Prices

All Students... NO COST
Adult Employee...\$5.25
Visitor...\$7.00

Extra items

All students must pay for extras at the time of purchase

4 oz. Juice...\$0.75	10 oz. Juice...\$1.50
6 oz. Juice...\$1.00	Sports Drinks...\$2.00
Bottled Tea... \$2.00	Flavored Water...\$2.00
8 oz. Bottled Water...\$0.75	16.9 oz. Bottled Water...\$1.00
Body Armor Lyte...\$2.00	Cold Brew Coffee...\$2.00
Breakfast Entrée ...\$1.50	Lunch Entrée...\$2.50
Extra Bread...\$0.75	Cookie...\$0.75
Yogurt, Granola & Fruit...\$2.50	Jerky Snack...\$2.00
Extra Vegetable...\$0.75	Extra Fruit...\$0.75
Cup...\$0.25	Muffin or Brownie...\$0.75
Ice Cream...\$1.00	Crackers/Chips...\$1.00

Price and availability of extra items varies by school and is subject to change.

Parents, please discuss with your student about purchasing extra items in the cafeteria.

Breakfast Benefits

Breakfast at school is. . .

- Convenient
- Inexpensive
- Packed with good nutrition
- Linked to improved academic performance
- Available **FREE to ALL students!**
- Available every day of the school year

What if I don't have time to feed my child breakfast at home?

Early morning and crazy schedules make breakfast difficult some days. Luckily, you don't have to worry about your child missing a meal, because breakfast is served at school at the following times:

Elementary School 7:25 a.m. to 7:50 a.m.

Middle School 7:25 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.

High School 7:25 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.

Will my child benefit from eating breakfast?

School breakfast will give your child a healthy start to the day. A nutritious breakfast helps students be more alert so they can learn more in class. School breakfast is also packed with vitamins and nutrients, to help make a strong healthy body.

Nutritional Benefits of Breakfast...

- Adolescents who eat breakfast tend to have a lower body mass index (BMI)
- Studies have shown that children who eat breakfast on a regular basis are less likely to be overweight.

- Eating breakfast provides more important nutrients, vitamins, and minerals, such as calcium, dietary fiber, folate, and protein.
- Eating breakfast as a child is important for establishing healthy habits for later in life.

Academic Benefits of Breakfast...

- Eating breakfast has been shown to help improve math, reading, and standardized test scores.
- Breakfast helps children pay attention, perform problem-solving task and improves memory.
- Children who eat school breakfast are likely to have fewer absences and incidents of tardiness than those who do not.

What is the School Breakfast Program?

The School Breakfast (SBP) is federally-assisted meal program that operates in public and private nonprofit schools and residential child care institutes. Participating schools receive reimbursement for breakfast which meets specific USDA nutrition requirements.

Other Services

Other meal services provided by Fayette County School's Child Nutrition Program are free afterschool snacks for students participating in a 21st Century Afterschool Program and any other approved academic afterschool program at a Fayette County School. Snack is served from 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Fayette County School's Child Nutrition Program also provides free breakfast and lunch for students participating in a 21st Century Summer Program and any other approved academic Summer program at a Fayette County School.

Smart Snack Standards in Schools

Foods and beverages sold individually (i.e. foods sold outside of reimbursable school meals, such as through vending machines, cafeteria a la carte {snack} items, fundraisers, school stores, etc.) at a minimum must follow the USDA Smart Snack School Standards & the Alabama State Department of Education guidelines.

- **Elementary Schools:** No carbonated soft drinks shall be available for sale or provided free of charge to students at any time during the school day. No food or beverage that has high fructose corn syrup or sugar listed as the first ingredient may be made available during the school day.

Beverages that may be sold include: 1) carbonated or non-carbonated, unflavored water of any size, 2) up to 8 ounces 100% fruit or vegetable juices with no added sweeteners, 3) up to 8 ounces low-fat unflavored milk or nonfat flavored or unflavored milk.

- **Middle School:** No carbonated soft drinks shall be available for sale or provided free of charge to students at any time during the school day. No food or beverage that has high fructose corn syrup or sugar listed as the first ingredient may be made available during the school day.

Beverages that may be sold include: 1) carbonated or non-carbonated, unflavored water of any size, 2) up to 12 ounces 100% fruit or vegetable juice with no added sweeteners, 3) up to 12 ounces low-fat unflavored milk or non-fat flavored or unflavored milk,

- **High School:** High Schools may sell no calorie or low calorie carbonated soft drinks that meet calorie requirements. No item considered to be in this full sugar category of carbonated drinks may be available for sale or provided free of charge to students. No food or beverage that has high fructose corn syrup or sugar listed as the first ingredient may be made available during the school day.

Beverages that may be sold: 1) carbonated or non-carbonated, no calorie flavored or unflavored water of any size, 2) up to 12 ounces 100% fruit or vegetable juice with no added sweeteners, 3) milk up to 12 ounces low-fat unflavored or non-fat flavored or unflavored milk, 4) no calorie, flavored and/or carbonated drinks with less than 5 calories per 8 ounces or 10 calories or less per 20 ounces, 5) low calorie, flavored and/or carbonated drinks with 40 calories or less per 8 ounces or 60 calories or less per 12 ounces.

Fundraising Activity Guidelines

Fundraising activities that involve the selling of food should reinforce food choices that promote good health.

Allowable Fundraising on School Campuses include: 1) Foods that meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School Standards, but are not sold in competition with school meals. Example: Fruit, 2) Foods that do not meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School Standards, but are not consumed at school. Example: Cookie Dough Sales, 3) Non-food items. Example: School Supplies, 4) Food fundraisers which meet exempt fundraising definition.

An exempt food fundraiser is defined as the sale of food items that do not meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School standards and are sold during the school day. A school may sponsor up to and not to exceed **30 exempt fundraisers per year**, for no more than 1 day each.

Foods sold as part of exempt fundraisers may not be sold 1 hour before or after meal periods. Example: If lunch ends at 12:30 p.m., then the fundraiser could not start until 1:30 p.m.

We encourage you to log on to www.fayette.k12.al.us to view the entire wellness policy and additional nutritional information.

Physical Activity

At a minimum, students will receive the Physical Education State Course of Study recommendation for per day activity by qualified staff and students will be encouraged to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior at school and at home. Waiver for exemption to physical education requirements must be approved by the State Department of Education. Waivers for High School students must follow the guidelines as outlined in Instructional Code Changes.

For additional information about the Child Nutrition Program, please contact Jenna Mayfield, Child Nutrition Program Director at 205-932-4611 (Ext 1003) or email jmayfield@fayette.k12.al.us.

We hope that you and your child have a great school year!

USDA Nondiscrimination 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:** 2. Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. **Email:** program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.