

BHISD School Nutrition Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does Barbers Hill ISD participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP)?

Yes, Barbers Hill ISD participates in the NSLP and SBP at five campuses – Intermediate North and South, Elementary North and South and Early Childhood Center. Our secondary schools (High School and Middle North and South) do not participate in either program.

2. How does a child qualify for free and reduced-price meals?

Eligibility is based on family income and family size. Families with students at the NSLP campuses listed above may also qualify through Direct Certification. The state agency will notify BHISD of students enrolled at NSLP campuses who qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on participation in the following programs: Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly Food Stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Direct certification benefits are updated on a monthly basis.

3. How long does the free or reduced-price eligibility last?

Eligibility lasts for the remainder of the school year in which the application was approved and carries over for the first 30 school days of the new school year. Once a new application for the current school year is processed, the carryover ends and any newly approved benefits take effect. If no new benefits are approved, the student's eligibility will end.

4. Do you have to submit a new application every year?

Yes. Students who participated in the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program during the previous school year will continue to receive the same benefits for the first 30 school days of the new school year or until a new application has been processed. After the first 30 school days, if a new application has not been received and approved, the student will return to full-pay status. Parents/guardians may apply online at www.schoolcafe.com/BARBERSHILLISD.

5. Will families get reimbursed for charged meals when a student qualifies for free or reduced-price meals?

Meal benefits cannot be applied retroactively. Families are responsible for any meal charges incurred before eligibility is approved.

6. Why do adult/visitor meals cost more than student meals?

Federal reimbursement is available only for eligible student meals. Because adult meals are not reimbursed, the price reflects the full cost of food, labor, and operations.

7. Is the school district required to meet any nutritional guidelines?

The federal government requires that meals served at our NSLP campuses meet specific guidelines regarding portion size, food choices, and nutrient content (calories, sodium, fat, etc.). This does not apply to our secondary schools since they do not participate in the NSLP or SBP.

8. What items does a school breakfast meal consist of?

Campus	Breakfast Includes	To Receive the Meal Price
Early Childhood Center Elementary School North Elementary School South Intermediate School North Intermediate School South (PK – 6th)	• Entrée (Grain and/or Meat/Meat Alternate) • Fruit and/or Vegetable (limit 2 total) • Milk	Student must select at least 3 items , including ½ cup of fruit or vegetable . Only one juice may count as a fruit component.
Middle School North Middle School South High School (7 th – 12 th)	• Entrée • Up to 2 side items • Small milk or bottled water	Students may select 3-4 items as part of the Breakfast Meal Deal.

Note: Students who do not select the required items will be charged à la carte prices.

9. What does a school lunch meal consist of?

Campus	Lunch Includes	To Receive the Meal Price
Early Childhood Center (Pre-K)	• Pre-plated meal with all five meal components (meal components listed below).	Students receive a complete pre-plated meal.
Early Childhood Center Elementary School North Elementary School South Intermediate School North Intermediate School South (Kindergarten – 6th)	• Meat/Meat Alternate • Grain • Fruit • Vegetable • Milk	Student must select at least 3 different meal components , including ½ cup of fruit or vegetable .
Middle School North Middle School South High School (7 th – 12 th)	• Entrée • Up to 2 side items • Small milk or bottled water	Students may select 3-4 items as part of the Lunch Meal Deal.

Note: Students who do not select the required items will be charged à la carte prices.

10. Who determines what food goes on my child's tray?

By federal law, students choose the foods they want from the selections available, except for Pre-K students. Pre-K students receive a pre-plated meal.

11. What is a reimbursable meal?

A reimbursable meal is a complete breakfast or lunch that meets USDA meal pattern requirements and qualifies the district for federal reimbursement. At Barbers Hill, reimbursable meals are served at the Early Childhood Center, Elementary North and South, and Intermediate North and South.

12. Who determines what food choices will be available on the daily menu?

The reimbursable menus at the elementary and intermediate campuses are planned to meet federal nutrition guidelines, while considering the preferences of the students.

13. How do I receive a refund from my student's lunch account?

Parents/guardians can complete the online Meal Account Refund form located on the School Nutrition webpage. Online payments can be refunded through RevTrak. All other payments are refunded in the form of check and can take 2-4 weeks to process. Details and instructions are listed on the Meal Account Refund Form.

14. I am a staff member. Why can't I use my student's account to purchase a meal?

In order to accurately count and claim meals, staff must use their own meal account. This will ensure that meals claimed for federal reimbursement are meals served to eligible students. Every staff member has a meal account regardless if the staff member purchases food in the cafeteria. Staff members can make payments to their own account in the cafeteria by cash or check. Card payments can be made using the district's online payment store, RevTrak (<https://barbershill.revtrak.net/>).

15. Why do students have to pay for water?

Free drinking water is always available in or near the cafeteria. Bottled water is an optional purchase for students who prefer it. At elementary and intermediate campuses, bottled water cannot replace milk as part of a reimbursable meal. Secondary "Meal Deals" include one beverage (small milk or bottled water).

16. Why do students have to pay for milk?

Milk is included in the price of a complete meal. If the milk is purchased separately (not part of a meal), it is charged at the à la carte price.

17. Why is a second meal \$5.30?

Similar to adult/visitor meals, we do not receive any government reimbursement for second meals. We can only claim one meal per meal type per eligible student per day. If a second meal is served to a student, we must treat these items as à la carte sales.

18. Why are condiments limited?

The federal government requires that meals served in our elementary and intermediate cafeterias meet specific guidelines regarding portion sizes and nutrient content (calories, sodium, fat, etc.). Condiments must be included in the nutrient analysis of our menus. In Barbers Hill, to meet nutritional guidelines at the elementary and intermediate level, ketchup is limited to four (4) packets when it is part of the menu item. It is also included in the meal price when that menu item is part of a complete meal. Ketchup is not sold separately at the elementary or intermediate campuses.

19. What happens if a student leaves the serving line and realizes they forgot an item?

At elementary and intermediate campuses, if a student returns after leaving the serving line, for example, because they forgot their milk, ketchup, or another condiment, the cashier must charge for the milk at the à la carte price. Condiments are portioned as part of the planned meal and students may only receive the amount allotted. If they leave the line without taking the condiment, we have no way to verify whether it was taken initially, so additional condiments cannot be given.

Teachers are also not permitted to provide extra condiments. (See #18 above for more information on condiments.)

20. Is there a charge limit?

- **Students** can charge up to \$20 for a complete meal.
- Once the charge limit is reached, a courtesy meal will be provided until the account is replenished.
- This policy does not apply to à la carte items. Students must have funds on his/her meal account or cash to purchase à la carte items.