Frequently Asked Questions regarding the National School Lunch Program for the 2026-2027 School Year

Q: My child received Free Meals last school year. Will they continue to receive free meals this school year?

- A: *We're excited to announce that our School District has implemented the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). This option, available to schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, operates on a four-year cycle.* ***As a result, all students enrolled in our School District will receive a healthy breakfast and lunch each school day at no cost to you. You do not need to fill out any meal applications.***

Q: Is it possible to get a letter verifying my child's free school lunch status, and if so, how can I request one?

- *A: Yes, a letter confirming your child's free meal status can be provided. To request this letter, please contact our Child Nutrition Services department directly at (760) 246-4912 ext 7. We will be able to assist you with your request.*

Q: My child has food allergies or specific dietary needs. Are there accommodations available for their school meals?

- *A: To ensure we can safely and appropriately accommodate your child's food allergies or dietary restrictions,* ***we require a completed Meal Accommodation form signed by a Medical Professional.*** *This form is accessible by scanning the QR code below:*

**Our standard lunch and breakfast options include a protein, bread, vegetable, fruit, and dairy (milk). For a student meal to be provided at no cost, National School Lunch Program guidelines mandate that students select at least three of these components, including a minimum ½ cup serving of fruit or vegetable. Students selecting fewer than three components who do not take the required fruit or vegetable will be charged the adult meal price.*

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Q: My student has religious dietary preferences and doesn't eat certain foods. Are meal accommodations available for religious reasons?

- *A: The USDA interprets religious dietary choices as personal preferences. However, our "Offer vs. Serve" system allows students and parents to review the daily menu and choose the items that align with their preferences. For lunch, we offer protein, bread, vegetables, fruit, and dairy components. Breakfast includes bread, fruit, and dairy. Your child can choose not to select any item that doesn't meet their religious dietary needs..*

Q: What happens to my student's school lunch account if they transfer to another school within the district?

- *A: When a student transfers to another school within our district, their school lunch account will remain active and unchanged.*

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mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442;
email:
program.intake@usda.gov.

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