Frequently Asked Questions about Elementary School Meals

How much do student school meals cost?

Fargo Public Schools (FPS) participates in the USDA's School Lunch Program, which provides monetary reimbursement from the Federal Government to the school district for every meal served. These meals are generally referred to as "reimbursable". This funding helps cover the cost of serving the meal so that it can be provided to students at a reduced price. The district determines meal prices each year to cover anticipated costs. The district does not make a profit providing school meals. FPS current meal prices.

Should I apply for Student Fees Assistance and Benefits even though I think our household income is too high to qualify for benefits?

This application form is also known as Free and Reduced-Price Meals Application. Households may apply for financial assistance to pay for school meals by submitting this application. For students qualifying for reduced price meals, breakfast and lunch are free (the state of ND covers the household fee). Students qualifying for free meals receive school meals at no charge.

Households are encouraged to apply:

- Students who qualify to receive waived (cancelled) fees related to attending school, such as activity fees, band rentals, exam fees, application fees, and more.

Receive additional benefits in addition to free meals:

- Increases funding to the district for educational programs through Title 1 funding, foundation aid, e-rate for technology grants, and others.

For more information on financial assistance for school meal programs:
https://www.fna.usda.gov/schoolmeals

Each student is allowed one reimbursable breakfast and lunch (at the above price) per school day. Additional meals are priced at the advertised "adult" meal price. Submit application.

Are school meals available to adults and other non-students?

Employees and visitors to the school are welcome to eat in the school cafeteria. Financial assistance is not provided to the school district for these meals, so the price for these meals is higher (a minimum of .65 cents per federal guidelines). Prices are determined each year. Portion sizes are the same for student and non-student meals.

What menu options are available to students choosing a reimbursable school meal?

The USDA has established guidelines for meals to qualify for reimbursement. These guidelines also apply to meals served as part of the Free and Reduced-price assistance program. The guidelines require students to take at least three of the five meal components offered at lunch. Of the three or more components chosen, at least one serving must be a fruit or vegetable. For breakfast, students must take at least three of the four meal components offered and must have a minimum of one serving of fruit.

Students may choose to take all meal components (four at breakfast, five at lunch) at the school meal price. Two components might be combined in one offering. For example, a slice of breakfast pizza with eggs, cheese, and crust provides a meat/meat alternative component and a grain component. The slice of pizza would count as two components.

In elementary schools, only reimbursable meals are served and available for purchase except for milk. If students don't take enough of the required components, they will be asked to put an additional item on their tray. Students are not forced to take or eat food. However, if a student refuses to add the necessary items to their tray to comply with the guidelines for reimbursable meals, the meal will be charged at the adult price.

Can students bring their own lunch and get milk from the school?

Students may bring their lunch from home and purchase a carton of milk in the lunchroom for .45 cents. Students wanting to purchase a single carton must have funds available in their lunch account or in cash. Items cannot be charged.

How can I manage my student's lunch account?

Balances may be reviewed by logging into the Infinite Campus, Campus Parent portal and clicking on SchoolPay. Through SchoolPay, parents may check balances, deposit money into student accounts electronically, and set up low balance notifications. Electronic payments can be made using a credit or debit card, which includes a processing fee. To avoid online credit card processing fees by adding money to their student's school lunch account using cash or a check. Payments may be brought to the school office or sent with your student in a sealed envelope clearly labeled with the student's full name and lunch account information. Checks should be made payable to "FPS Nutrition Services" and include the student's full name and lunch account information. These payment methods ensure that the full amount is applied to your student's meal account without any additional processing charges. If you have questions about payment options or your student's account balance, please contact the school office or call the Nutrition Services Department at 701-446-1152.

Parents are expected to discuss any spending expectations with their child/ren.

For more information on the USDA National School Lunch Program, visit:
https://www.fna.usda.gov/schoolmeals