



ARDSLEY

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are pleased to inform you that the Ardsley Union Free School District will be offering meals at no cost to schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs for the 2026-2027 school year.

What does this mean for your child(ren) attending the school(s) identified above?

All students enrolled at the Ardsley Union Free School District are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school at **no charge** to your household each day of the 2026-2027 school year. Your child(ren) will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submitting an application. No further action is required of you.

If you have any further questions or need help, please contact Lisa Motta at 914-295-5564.

Sincerely,

Cheri Rosenblatt
Assistant Superintendent for Business, Facilities and Operations

Nondiscrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, 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, audiotape, 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; or
2. **fax:**
(202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**
program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Ardsley Union Free School District

2026-2027

Additional Information on Free School Meals

For the 2026-2027 school year, Ardsley UFSD continues to participate in the New York State Child Nutrition Universal Free Meals Program. Through this initiative, all students will receive one breakfast and one lunch meal daily at no cost, regardless of household income. The program offers a variety of healthy and nutritious meals. Children can choose from a wide range of options. All meals offered to students follow USDA Guidelines for milk, fruits, vegetables, proteins and grains. A la carte items such as specialty beverages and snacks will still be available for purchase.

How it works:

- Ardsley UFSD will provide all students with one complete breakfast meal and one complete lunch meal daily at no cost to families. No action is required from parents or guardians for students to receive free meals. Students will need to use their student pin number to obtain the meal. Students are allowed to charge only one breakfast and one lunch meal per day.
- Ala carte items, such as snacks, specialty drinks and any second meals will require funds on the student's MySchoolBucks account or cash at the register. We do not allow these items to be charged to an account without a positive balance. Please visit MySchoolBucks via the following link to access your child's account:
<https://www.myschoolbucks.com/>.
- The district submits reimbursement claims to the State and Federal government to support this program.

Free and reduced meal information:

- Applications for free and reduced meals are not needed for free meals in 2026-2027.
- Please complete the [Household Income Form](#) to determine eligibility for additional programs such as college application fee waivers or other programs that require income eligibility information. It is not needed for free/reduced meals.

- Parents should continue to fund the MySchoolBucks account for their student if the parents allow purchases for ala carte or snack items. Only one complete meal for both breakfast and lunch per day will be free.
- If there is a negative account balance from a prior year, it will need to be settled in My School Bucks to a positive balance in order for your child to charge a la carte items.
- **Only complete meals qualify as a free meal. Parents should review with their child what constitutes a complete meal (see FAQ below). The National School Lunch program is heavily audited and cashiers are not permitted to ring up a meal as a complete meal if it does not meet the meal requirements of the National School Lunch program.**

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What is a complete meal?

- a) A complete breakfast consists of 4 items to choose from:
- Whole Grains: 2-ounce equivalent serving (choose 1)
 - Protein: 1-ounce equivalent serving (choose 1)
 - Fruit: 4-ounce equivalent serving (choose 1 or 2)
 - Milk: 8-ounce equivalent serving (choose 1)

Note: Students must choose at least three of the four items offered with one of those being a fruit or an incomplete meal will be charged at à la carte prices. All four items may be taken.

- b) A complete lunch consists of 5 components:
- Whole grains: 2-ounce equivalent serving (choose 1)
 - Protein: 2-ounce equivalent serving (choose 1)
 - Vegetable: 4-ounce equivalent serving (choose 1 or 2)
 - Fruit: 4-ounce equivalent serving (choose 1 or 2)
 - Milk: 8-ounce equivalent serving (choose 1)

Note: Students must choose at least three of the five components offered with one of those being a vegetable or fruit or an incomplete meal will be charged at à la carte prices. All five components may be taken if desired.

2. Does this mean all food at the schools are free?

- a) No. While the first complete breakfast and lunch each day are provided at no cost to students, any additional meals or meal components will be charged at a la carte

prices. Snacks and specialty drinks are also not included and will be charged accordingly.

b) Meals are only free for students. Adults will continue to pay the posted rates.

3. What are the benefits of the Child Nutrition Universal Free Meal program?

a) Improved health:

Children who receive nutritious meals are more likely to maintain good health, and thrive academically and socially. Healthy eating supports their ability to learn, play, and reach their full potential.

b) Reduced hunger:

The program ensures that all children have consistent access to wholesome meals, helping to alleviate food insecurity and promote well-being.

c) Reduced costs:

By providing free meals, the program helps reduce the financial burden on families, easing the cost of daily nutrition for children.

4. Do I have to do anything for my child to receive no-cost meals?

No action is required from parents to participate in this program as students automatically receive the Universal Meal benefits. The Household Income Form is used to determine eligibility for additional programs such as college application fee waivers or other programs that require income eligibility information.

5. Do I still need to maintain funds in the MySchoolBucks account and what is MySchoolBucks?

Yes. If you allow your child to purchase snacks, specialty drinks or second meals, funds must be available on your child's account or cash is needed to be paid at the register. We do not allow à la carte purchases to be "charged" to an account with a \$0 balance thus creating a negative balance. MySchoolBucks interfaces with our Point of Sale cafeteria register system so any balance you maintain in MySchoolBucks will show up at the registers. Please monitor your child's balance at <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/>

6. Where can I find the daily menus for each school?

We post the monthly menus on the Ardsley website under the Food and Nutrition Department. Nutritional information for menu offerings is available via the [FDMealPlanner](#) on the website as well.

7. Can a parent restrict certain items from being purchased by their child?

Yes, parents should email foodservices@ardsleyschools.org with any restrictions. The cashiers do their best to see the alerts we place on the register screens and honor these restrictions.

8. My child has a special dietary restriction. How do I communicate this to the cafeteria?

Please email Nina Ambriz, our Food Services Director, at foodservices@ardsleyschools.org to discuss options available.

9. What food company does Ardsley work with and how healthy is it?

We partner with Whitsons Culinary Group for our Food Service program; however, we review menus and have created specifications Whitsons must follow. All food is free from trans fats, high fructose corn syrup and artificial dyes, including ketchup! We use only Boars Head deli meats, whole muscle chicken and 100% beef. All snacks offered for sale are National School Lunch Smart Snack compliant.

10. Is there an option to pre-order?

This year at Ardsley High School there will be an option for deli pre-order via a [Google Form](#). Pre-orders must be placed each day by 8:30 AM. When a student places a pre-order, it counts as their free lunch for the day. Please be sure your student picks up their pre-ordered meal during the block lunch period. If they choose not to pick it up and get a different meal instead, the system will consider that a second meal and payment will be required.

Please email foodservices@ardsleyschools.org with any questions you may have.

Reference Links:

<https://www.nysed.gov/standards-instruction/ap-ib-act-and-sat-fee-waiver-programs-new-york-state-students>



ARDSLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE TO PARENTS

Required Annual Notifications to parents/guardians are posted on the website. Please review these documents and check periodically for updates.

Please be advised that the Board of Education has approved a resolution authorizing the release of directory information on students and student families effective 7/13/2021. This release will be in accordance with Board Policy 7241 (attached).

This information may be released to any person or group which agrees not to sell this information nor make it available to anyone else or any other organization or use it for any commercial purpose or fund raising.

If you wish to exclude the release of your child's information, please send written notification by September 30, 2026 to:

Ms. Donna Accurso
Ardsley School District
500 Farm Road,
Ardsley, New York 10502



Book	AUFSD Policies
Section	Section 7000: Students
Title	Student Directory Information
Code	7241
Status	Active
Adopted	July 3, 2012
Last Revised	July 13, 2021

SUBJECT: STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The District shall publish an annual public notice informing parents or eligible students (i.e., a student 18 years of age or older or who is attending an institution of post-secondary education) of the District's definition of directory information, the parent or eligible student's right to refuse the release of student directory information and indication of the time period for their response.

Directory information is information contained in an education record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Following this public notice and a reasonable period to opt-out, the District may release such information to an outside group without individual consent.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act defines student directory information as any of the items as indicated in the following list. The Ardsley Union Free School District defines student directory information to include only the items of information checked below:

- ☒ name
- ☒ address
- ☐ telephone listing
- ☐ date and place of birth
- ☐ major field of study
- ☒ grade level
- ☒ participation in sports and activities
- ☒ weight and height (for members of athletic teams)
- ☒ dates of attendance
- ☒ honors, degrees and awards
- ☐ email address
- ☐ photograph
- ☐ name of educational institution previously attended
- ☐ Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a PIN, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user.
- ☐ Student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student ID badge, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a PIN, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user.

Parents and eligible students may not, by opting out of disclosure of directory information, prevent a school from requiring a student to wear or present a student identification card or a badge that displays information that may be directory information. A student's social security number, in whole or part, will not be designated as directory information.

20 USC Section 1232g
34 CFR Part 99

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #7240 -- Student Records: Access and Challenge
#7242 -- Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education

Adopted: 7/3/12
Revised: 5/3/16; 6/5/18; 5/19/20; 7/13/21