

Child Nutrition Services Announces
FREE BREAKFAST AND FREE LUNCH MEALS
for all Enrolled Students for the 2023-2024 School Year

Beginning school year 2022-2023, and continuing through school year 2023-2024, **California will become the first state to implement a statewide Universal Meals Program for school children. Education Code 49501.5 requires public school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools serving students in grades TK-12 to provide two meals free of charge (breakfast and lunch) during each school day to students requesting a meal, regardless of their free or reduced-price meal eligibility.** Meal applications will not be needed to receive the free daily breakfast and/or lunch meal.

Although meals will be free for all, the state continues to require school districts to distribute and collect free/reduced-price meal applications. Free/reduced-price meal applications allow the district to collect essential data needed to qualify for additional school funding intended to support academic programs for your student. Additionally, free/reduced eligibility can qualify households for things such as discounted internet services, P-EBT benefits, discounted rates on your energy bill, and more. Households are encouraged to apply online at www.ezmealapp.com.

We will continue to take proper precautions with increased sanitation and cleaning procedures. This will include, but not limited to, students' ability to sanitize hands prior to getting food, sanitizing hands prior to exiting the line, CNS staff sanitizing the salad bar and all contact surfaces between grades and changing tongs between grades as well.

Here in the Child Nutrition Services Department, we go a step beyond to ensure your child is getting the most health conscious and appealing food we can provide. All items we serve are made with whole grains. We serve only 100% beef and chicken products, with minimal to no fillers, by-products, or textured vegetable proteins. For a better understanding of our program, school site menus, and what we have to offer, please visit our website [here](#). The "Why Eat School Lunch" Brochure on the website is a great resource to understand our regulations for the program because we can't just serve anything!

At the Elementary School level, each student will be able to come through the line and get one free breakfast and/or lunch meal per day. This includes the choice of one entrée, one milk, and whatever fruits/vegetables they would like from the salad bar. Breakfast will be served from 7:40am-8:00am while school is in session. Only those students receiving breakfast may enter the school grounds before the gates open.

At the Middle and High School level, each student will be able to come through the line and get one free breakfast and/or lunch meal per day. This includes the choice of one entrée, one milk, one juice, and whatever fruits/vegetables they would like from the salad bar. Breakfast at the Middle School will take place during the morning break

period. Breakfast at the High School will take place from 8:00-8:25am daily while school is in session and a second chance breakfast during the morning break period.

At the Middle and High School level, each student will enter in their student ID number into a pin pad to get their free daily meals. There is a nutrition break where students may purchase a la carte items, such as snacks and drinks, using their pin number or cash. The lunch period also has a la carte items along with the featured lunch specials. A la carte snacks will be denied if there is no money or a negative balance on the student's account.

No second meals will be allowed for purchase at any school site to ensure all students are able to get a first meal if they desire. If students are still hungry, the salad bar is buffet style, and they may go through for seconds on any of the fresh fruit/vegetable options for the day.

Payments for a la carte sales may be made by cash or check in the "CNS Deposit" box at each of our school offices. For your convenience, credit card charges can be made online by logging on to www.ezschoollpay.com and setting up an account. You can view your child's account balance anytime and receive reminder emails. In addition, those who have a smart phone can download the EZSchoolPay app to make payments and check balances for your child's meal account even easier.

We hope you enjoy what we have to offer and please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

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

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