



To: DCPS Families  
From: Rob Jaber, Director, Food & Nutrition Services  
Date: August 24, 2020  
Re: Child Nutrition Programs, Meal Charge Policy, and Dietary Accommodation

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## USDA Child Nutrition Programs

DC Public Schools (DCPS) is proud to offer nutritious meals to support student learning and success. DCPS participates in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs and adheres to guidelines established by the DC Healthy Schools Act. Our schools participate in the USDA School Breakfast Program, the National School Lunch Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, and the Summer Food Service Program.

## School Meal Service during the Coronavirus Public Health Emergency

For school year 2020-2021, while the Covid-19 emergency virtual and/or hybrid learning model is in place, select school sites will be serving breakfast and lunch for pick up to DCPS students. One breakfast and one lunch will be provided per student, per school day. Parents or caregivers can pick up meals on behalf of their DCPS student(s). Student name, student ID number, and school name must be provided at the pick-up site.

For more information and the most up-to-date list of open school meal sites please visit:

<https://dcps.dc.gov/food>. During the Covid-19 Emergency virtual and/or hybrid school learning, all meals will be free for DCPS students.

## Meal Prices & Free and Reduced Price Meals

When full-time in-person, school learning resumes, the following meal prices will be in place: Breakfast: Free; Lunch: \$3.00. Contact your school administrator to learn about meal programs specific to your school.

Your student may qualify for free lunch through one of the following ways:

1. If your student attends one of the 86 schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision Program (CEP); to see this list of schools, please visit the below web page or contact your school: <https://dcps.dc.gov/page/community-eligibility-provision-cep-schools>.
2. At remaining schools, DCPS students may qualify for free meals if:
  - a. Students are in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
  - b. Students are foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or the court, or are homeless, migrant, categorically eligible, or runaway.
  - c. A Free and Reduced-priced Meal (FARM) application is submitted and approved based on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.

All school-aged children in income-eligible households can receive school meal benefits regardless of a child's immigration status. To see if your student qualifies for free meals, *please complete the 2020 - 2021 Free and Reduced-Price Meal (FARM) application* online at <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>.

**NOTE:** A new form must be completed each school year. Additional information is available here:

<https://dcps.dc.gov/publication/free-and-reduced-priced-meals-farm-application>.

Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines SY 2020-2021			
Household Size	Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income
1	\$23,606	\$1,968	\$454
2	\$31,894	\$2,658	\$614
3	\$40,182	\$3,349	\$773
4	\$48,470	\$4,040	\$933
5	\$56,758	\$4,730	\$1,092
6	\$65,046	\$5,421	\$1,251
7	\$73,334	\$6,112	\$1,411
8	\$81,622	\$6,802	\$1,570
Each additional person	\$8,288	\$691	\$160

## Local Meal Charge Policy

For complete details on our meal charge policy, visit: <https://dcps.dc.gov/page/meal-prices-and-payment>

### Meal Payments

Submit payment for lunch meals in one of the following ways:

1. By paying with a credit/debit card at [myschoolbucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com), an online prepayment service, (there is a service charge of \$2.49 per transaction); or,
2. By sending a check or money order (student ID# **must** be included) made payable to the DC Treasurer to the following address:

DCPS Food and Nutrition Services  
1200 First Street NE, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20002

Students will never be refused a meal or served an alternate meal selection if there are no funds in the student account. The meal will automatically be charged to the student account and will create a negative meal balance. Students with a negative meal balance are not identified in any way during meal service and will receive the same meal choices.

### Negative Meal Balance

As a courtesy reminder, once a student's balance exceeds \$9.00 (3 charged lunches), household notifications are made via automated communications (calls, text, email). Automated communications will continue until the negative meal balance is paid. The aforementioned payment methods (online and check/money order) can be used to pay off negative meal balances.

As your student continues to eat lunch, meal balances will increase. You can manage the meal balance by loading funds to your student's meal account. Any unpaid meal balances will rollover into the next school year. Any payments made will first go to pay off the negative meal balance. Please note that negative meal balances do not delay a student's graduation. DCPS Food and Nutrition Services makes every effort to answer questions related to negative meal balances and repayment.

Automated communications are also used to remind families to complete FARM applications to ensure all students qualifying for free meals are made aware of the application.

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider. To see translated version of this letter, please visit:  
<https://dcps.dc.gov/page/meal-prices-and-payment>

## Dietary Accommodation Forms

If your student requires a special diet/meal plan for meals served through the USDA Child Nutrition Program, due to food allergy, medical condition, or philosophical/religious need, we need to know about it. Please complete a dietary accommodation form from (<https://dcps.dc.gov/node/1415741>) and submit the completed form to your school nurse or any open meal site during virtual and/or hybrid learning. Please allow time for processing and development of menus. FNS reserves the right to decline a request that is beyond a reasonable accommodation.

If you have any questions, please contact Food & Nutrition Services by phone at 202-299-2159 or email [food.dcps@k12.dc.gov](mailto:food.dcps@k12.dc.gov).

Sincerely,

Robert M. Jaber  
Executive Director, Food & Nutrition Services  
District of Columbia Public Schools