

Free Meals for 2021-2022

1. Are meals free for the entire school year?

Yes. The federal government approved a waiver for school districts to serve free meals for the entire 2021-2022 school year.

2. Do I need to complete a meal program application?

Meal program applications to determine eligibility are not necessary because all students can receive free meals. However, there are other benefits, other than meals, that are based on household income. You are encouraged to complete an Alternate Benefit Application to receive other fee waivers.

3. What is an Alternate Benefit Application?

The Alternate Benefit Application replaces the normal eligibility application. The information is useful to calculate funding for the school district. In addition, this information qualifies households to waive fees such as those for college applications, SAT/ACT exams, AP classes, bus passes, and school activities. The application is available through the AERIES parent portal, located under the Income Survey tab.

4. When can my student start receiving free meals?

All meals will be free from the first day of classes and throughout the school year.

5. Can students get a second meal?

Students may purchase a second meal after all students have received their first meal. The cost of the meals remains the same (breakfast \$3.50, Lunch \$4.50 elementary/\$5.00 middle and high).

6. Should I have money on account through PayPams?

You may wish to keep some money on account to pay for a second meal. Students may purchase snacks, or a la carte items, at the middle and high schools.

7. Can my student receive free meals during the first 30 days of 2022-2023 as part of the usual "grace period"?

No. Since an application was not submitted, there will be no "grace period". All households must complete an application to assess qualification for free or reduced-price meals for the year 2022-2023. Meals may be purchased until the eligibility is assessed. Applications will be available starting July 1, 2022. Parents are encouraged to complete the application as early as possible. Processing may take up to ten business days.

Feel free to contact Child Nutrition Services for additional questions, 818-225-8625.