

## FAQs Regarding Free Meals during the 2020-21 School Year

Per the USDA's approval of an emergency program which funds meals for children at no cost, effective Tuesday, September 8th, all children ages 1-18 may receive a free breakfast and lunch meal each school day.

This program is voluntary for school districts to participate in. This program also allows schools to voluntarily provide an option for parents or guardians of online learners to pick up meals at a designated time from the school. This program may end at any time before the end of December.

Students learning in person simply need to choose a complete meal at breakfast and lunch to participate. For virtual learners, parents need to pre-order meals each week by Wednesdays at 3 p.m. through the online form on the Nutrition Services web page. There is only one distribution day and time and we cannot make accommodations for alternate days or times or arriving late to pick up meals. Parents may send someone in their place to pick up the meal kits.

Please read below for answers to other questions.

Question: How long is this in place? Children may receive free meals through the end of the 2020-21 school year.

Question: If I believe my family would qualify for free or reduced price meals right now, do I still need to submit an application for this school year? Yes, please continue to submit a free or reduced price meal application during this time period to qualify for meal assistance for the first 30 days into next school year, for waiver of school fees and for potential P-EBT funds.

Question: I do not want my child to receive free meals. Can I pay for them instead? No, any money received will go on account for future purchases of a la carte items.

Question: My child only wants the entree or is packing their lunch and only wants milk. Can students take only parts of the free meal? Students must select the minimum amount of components, including a serving of fruit or veggie or a la carte pricing applies. In that case, funds need to be on their account or paid with cash. Change is not given but is applied to their account for future purposes.

Question: What makes up a meal? A breakfast meal consists of an entree, fruit, juice and milk. A lunch meal consists of a protein item, a whole grain item, fruit, veggie and milk. Menus are posted online at [SchoolMeals.Nutrislice.com](https://www.schoolmeals.nutrislice.com). The link is also on the Nutrition Services page on the District website. Menus are subject to change based on food availability from our distributor.

Question: My child is learning online and does not attend school in person, can we still receive the meals? Yes, you must pre-order meals each week to receive and pick up the meals. The

link to order meals is on the Nutrition Services page on the District's website. Meals are distributed once a week for the number of school days in the following week.

Question: I don't have transportation to pick up meals or can't make it at that time. Can the district deliver the meals to me? No, you must coordinate with a friend, family or community member in that case to pick up the meals for you. Meals must still be pre-ordered under your child's name. Alternate days or times for meal pick up cannot be accommodated.

Question: Will the meals for the online learners be the same as the ones which are given in school? Not necessarily. Because we are distributing meals for the upcoming week and because of the volume which will need to be prepared, many of those items will be frozen or shelf stable.

Question: Can we order which items we would like to receive? Unfortunately, we do not have the staffing to meet individual requests, but please let us know of any food allergies.

Question: I have a preschool child or homeschooled child. Can I receive meals for them? Yes, you may, but you must pre-order those. If you also have a school aged child attending school in person, he/she must receive their meals at school.

Please email [Kelly.Minnick@escwr.org](mailto:Kelly.Minnick@escwr.org) for any additional questions.