



Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we welcome students back for the 2022-23 school year, we want to remind you about the **benefit of school meals**, which are one of the healthiest meal options for students. Nutrition is an essential part of the learning process, and we feature student-favorite foods and engaging nutrition education programs.

Thanks to nationwide waivers for federally funded meal programs, school meals have been free to all students through the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. **However, these waivers have expired, and schools must return to charging for breakfast and lunch.** Free or reduced-priced meals are only available to students who qualify for these benefits. For the 2022-23 school year, **breakfast will cost \$2.25, and lunch will cost \$3.30.**

**Our goal is to continue supporting all students and families by ensuring those who need free and reduced meals at school continue to receive them** – especially while understanding that the pandemic has created new hardships for many families, including those who have never previously relied on school meals. Therefore, we encourage all families, regardless of income, to complete and submit a short, confidential school meal application before the start of the school year to ensure that there are no gaps in meal benefits for students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Parents or guardians can submit this application online at [lunchapplication.com](https://lunchapplication.com) or in person at the front office. It is easy and confidential to ensure your child stays well-nourished at school.

For families with multiple students in the district, only one household application is needed. If qualified, meal benefits will apply for the entire school year. Should your household financial circumstances change at any time, please be aware that applications can also be submitted throughout the year. For families receiving other benefits, such as SNAP or TANF, you may receive notification that your student(s) is/are automatically eligible for free meals.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact:

Tammy Edwards  
Food Service Admin  
tedwards@hpart.org  
864.316.9788

Thank you,

*Tonya Johnson*

Director of Dining  
Tonya.Johnson@compass-usa.com