

# DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT OF CHILD NUTRITION

325 KAPIK DRIVE · HERNANDO, MS 38632 · 662-449-7200

## Meal Applications

- Eligibility status is defined by USDA as Paying, Reduced Price or Free.
  - Free and reduced meal applications are available for school meals. Families can apply year round.
    - ◊ Paper forms are available at each school site or the Child Nutrition office.
    - ◊ You can also apply online for faster processing
- [www.school lunchapp.com](http://www.school lunchapp.com)
- A new application must be completed each school year or when a child transfers from one district to another or from another state.
  - Meal benefits do not become effective until the application has been approved.
  - The payment of all meals prior to application approval is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s).
  - Prices for school meals are set by the DeSoto County School District Child Nutrition department within parameters of federal and state regulations.
  - The federal school lunch program allows an eligible student to receive one (1) reimbursable school lunch and breakfast, where available, every day.

### Did You Know?



DeSoto County School District is a member of the MS Statewide School Purchasing Program. (MSSPP). MSSPP is one of two statewide school food purchasing programs in the nation. The program is administered through MDE Office of Child Nutrition and has been in existence since 1992. There are over 180 educational entities that participate in the program across the state. MSSPP issues distribution bids for over 600 items that meet the USDA required federal regulations. No food products can be added to the bid without receiving an approval score of 75% or higher in student testing.

#### Blocks & Alerts on Accounts

A parent may call the Child Nutrition office to place a block on their child's account to prohibit the purchase of extra sale items, charging or to set dollar cap.

#### Special Diets

A Medical Statement for Special Diets form or Religious Statement for Special Diets form must be completed and returned to the Child Nutrition Department. No modifications can be made until a form is received. A new form should be submitted each year. Forms can be found on the Child Nutrition website, [www.desotocountycn.org](http://www.desotocountycn.org).

### What Makes a Tray ?

Select a minimum of 3  
or a maximum of 5

#### CHOICES:



**Must include a**  **or** 

#### UNDERSTANDING A REIMBURSABLE MEAL

All students must take a "reimbursable meal".

##### What is a reimbursable meal?

One that consists of at least 3 of the 5 offered components & must include a fruit or a vegetable component.

##### What is a component?

Think of it as a food group.

##### What are extra sale items?

Smart Snack approved food items that can be purchased after a reimbursable meal has been purchased if account is in good standing.

##### Can extra components be purchased?

Yes, extras of each component can be purchased after a reimbursable meal has been purchased.

**Extra sale items and extra components cannot be charged.**



[www.mypaymentsplus.com](http://www.mypaymentsplus.com)

### WHAT IS IT?

An automated system that allows parents to monitor their child's lunch balances, view purchases and make payments.

### HOW CAN I USE MY PAYMENTS PLUS ?

- Make payments to account!
- Monitor balances on account!
- Monitor purchases on account!
- Receive e-mail & text message notifications when balance is low!
- Utilize auto replenish for account!
- Pay with checking account or credit card!
- Use the FREE smart phone app to monitor account & make payments !

*There is a 4.75% per \$20.00 fee for using the online payment center. This fee does not benefit the DeSoto County School District.*

DeSoto County School District is not responsible for lost or forgotten lunch money. It is the parent's responsibility to keep track of their student's lunch account. We encourage all parents to utilize the technology we have provided. Parents will be notified if their child has a negative lunch balance through the automated phone dialer system.

\*Parents can still continue to make payments on the lunch line and utilize [www.mypaymentsplus.com](http://www.mypaymentsplus.com) as a monitoring tool. \*

### School Meal Prices

Student Breakfast:	\$1.25 Full Pay
	\$0.30 Reduced
Student Lunch:	\$2.75 Full Pay
	\$0.40 Reduced
Adult Breakfast:	\$2.00
Adult Lunch:	\$3.25

### SCHOOL MEAL CHARGE POLICY

The DeSoto County School District recognizes that healthy, nutritious meals are an important component to student readiness and ability to learn. The district's Child Nutrition department is a self-supporting fund that shall not have a negative balance at the close of a fiscal year in accordance with FNS Instruction 796-2 (Rev. 3) which lists bad debts as a non-allowable expenditure of Federal Funds. Therefore, losses or meals charged cannot be paid with Child Nutrition Funds.

In accordance with the recommendation on the charging of meals by the State Department of Education, The DeSoto County School District shall comply with the regulation as follows:

1. Adults are not allowed to charge meals or solicit food from students.
2. Students can charge meals as follows:
  - a) Students will be able to charge up to a maximum dollar equivalent of five (5) reimbursable lunch meals and five (5) reimbursable breakfast meals where available.
  - b) Charging a reimbursable meal will result in a negative balance on the student's account until funds are added to the student's account.
  - c) Students with a zero or negative account balance will not be allowed to purchase a second meal or a la carte items until the student's account is in good standing.
  - d) Once a student reaches the maximum five (5) day charge limit, **meals can only be purchased with cash or pre-paid funds on account.**
  - e) When a student brings money, that money will first be applied to the purchase of a reimbursable meal; any remainder money will then be applied to negative balances on the student's account.
  - f) Charging will **not be permitted starting May 1<sup>st</sup>** of the current school year to allow adequate time to collect student account balances.
3. Negative account balances will be carried out as follows:
  - Daily calls and/or emails will be sent to parent(s)/guardian(s) Monday through Friday whose child has a negative account balance from the Child Nutrition department.
4. Failure to bring account into good standing will result in:
  - Further investigation by school counselors and/or principals.
  - Notification to appropriate state agencies including the Department of Human Services.
5. If a senior's account is not in good standing as of May 1st, the administration may choose to prohibit the senior from participating in senior activities and/or graduation exercises.