

Exciting news! Nutrition & Food Services is pleased to announce that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved a nationwide waiver due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that provides ALL students, regardless of socioeconomic status, FREE meals at school.

The Indiana Department of Education has given schools the approval to start this program and Noblesville Schools will begin offering free meals to all students immediately. According to the USDA, this program is currently in effect until December 31, 2020 or until funding runs out.

We highly encourage students to take advantage of the free meals at all Noblesville Schools! A grab-and-go breakfast is available at all schools and is a great way to start the day.

Our fully trained staff have made the necessary modifications to the way our food is served to ensure that students are safe and continue to make the school cafeteria a positive part of the students' school day.

If you have additional questions beyond the FAQs below, please contact Food Services Director Erin Brattain at [erin\\_brattain@nobl.k12.in.us](mailto:erin_brattain@nobl.k12.in.us)

#### What is considered a free meal?

Students can receive one FREE lunch and one FREE breakfast per school day. Meals must meet the existing USDA guidelines in order to be free. This includes an entrée, fruits, vegetables and milk. The meal must contain at least 3 components, one must be a fruit or vegetable. Ala carte/snack items (extra entrees, beverages, and snacks/drinks) will still be an additional charge. Menus can be found [here](#).

#### What do I need to do to get a free meal?

No sign up is required. Students just need to pick up a complete meal. What makes a meal can be found [here](#).

#### Why must meals meet certain guidelines to be FREE?

The USDA wants to ensure that any meal that is funded by the government meets certain nutrition qualifications. A school cannot be reimbursed for parts of a meal; the meal must be sold as a unit.

Will my student still use their lunch account?

Yes, students will still use student lunch accounts. Families can still deposit money into accounts for the purchase of ala carte/snack foods. Families can make online payments utilizing our new payment center at <https://www.k12paymentcenter.com/>

Do I still need to complete a Free/Reduced application if I think I qualify?

This program is currently only in effect until December 31, 2020. After that date, student eligibility status will revert back to either paid, free, or reduced. If you were approved for free/reduced, that status remains in effect for the entire school year. **Textbook assistance will still require a student to qualify for free/reduced status via the meal application in order to qualify for assistance.**

What about 100% online learners?

We have 5-day breakfast and lunch meal packs available to students who are not attending school in person. These packs are for anyone between the ages of 2-18 that are not attending in person at Noblesville Schools. To opt into this program please click [here](#)

What about secondary hybrid learners?

We have a process for this. Please contact your school social worker about opting into this program.

Can I get my food delivered?

We do have not delivery available. Meals must be picked up during the school day or at the assigned meal pick up time.