



Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools  
1 Trojan Place, Suite B  
St. Leon, IN 47012

Dr. Andrew Jackson  
Superintendent

Mr. Brandon Burress  
Director of Support Services

Ms. Kelly Roth  
Director of Student Services

Ms. Mary Ann Baines  
Director of Financial Operations

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September 11, 2020

Dear Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools Parents:

Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools is pleased to announce that the USDA has approved a nationwide waiver due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic allowing ALL students regardless of socioeconomic status, to receive FREE meals at school. We will be starting this program effective Monday September 14, 2020. According to the USDA, this program is in effect until December 31, 2020 or until funding runs out.

**What is considered a “free meal”?**

Students can receive 1 free breakfast and 1 free lunch per school day. Meals must meet the current guidelines established by the USDA in order for it to be free. Ala carte items will still be an additional charge including extra entrees and milk.

**How do I know if my child is purchasing a meal that qualifies as free?**

Cafeteria staff will be assisting students to ensure that they have the minimum choices necessary to qualify for a free meal. For example: If a student chooses the cheeseburger, the student will be asked to select a fruit or a vegetable in order to have a complete meal. The student may also select an additional fruit/vegetable serving and a milk at no charge but are not required to take the additional items.

**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 standards. A school cannot be reimbursed for parts of a meal.

**Will my student still use their meal account?**

Yes, students will still use their meal account. Households may still add money to their meal account for ala carte items.

**What if my child is enrolled in Sunman-Dearborn Online Academy?**

We will continue to offer our weekly distribution of 5 day meal packs (5 breakfasts, 5 lunches) to S-DOA students on Wednesdays from 8:30 - 9:30am at East Central High School. This will be FREE for all students. We ask that all S-DOA students that are not currently signed up for meal pick-ups complete the [online form](#) so we can estimate how many meal packs to prepare.

**Will free meals be a cost to S-DCS?**

This program is fully funded by the federal government and all costs to S-DCS are fully reimbursed through federal funding.

**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 or until funding runs out. When the program expires, student eligibility status will revert back to either Paid, Free or Reduced. If you were approved for Free or Reduced meals, that status remains in effect for the entire school year. Textbook assistance will still require a student to qualify for Free or Reduced meals via the meal application in order to qualify for assistance. Online applications can be completed at: [www.ezmealapp.com](http://www.ezmealapp.com).

Sincerely,

Cheryl Erhart  
Director of Food and Nutrition Services