

2021-2022 School Year Free Meals

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Who is eligible for free breakfast and free lunch? The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved all schools to offer free breakfast and lunch meals to all students regardless of income. This means Lake Central School Corporation (LCSC) students will receive one complete breakfast meal and one complete lunch meal daily for FREE this school year.

To participate, your student needs to pick up their breakfast and lunch meals in their school cafeteria during the designated meal times. Secondary students will need to present their student ID or provide their student ID number to the cashier.

Do I have to pay money back for my student's free meals? No, the funding is provided through the USDA. The meals will be free through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Current negative balances from the current or prior school years will still need to be paid in full. You will receive phone calls and emails for any negative balances on Food Service accounts.

What type of meals will be provided? Menus are posted on the Food Service section of the LCSC website. Menus are subject to change based on product availability. All meals will follow the USDA meal pattern guidelines. Your student will select an entrée of their choice along with a fruit and/or vegetable and a milk if they would like. A fruit and/or vegetable is required to make it a complete free meal.

Some things to keep in mind:

1. Students must take the required components to make a reimbursable meal in order for it to be free. How students make a reimbursable meal will be posted in the cafeteria and on the LCSC web site. A cashier or other school staff will help students take a complete meal.
2. If your student purchases a la carte items in the serving line such as a bottled water, an extra milk, or a lunch entrée, they need to pay from their food service account at the point of purchase. Please make sure there are adequate funds in their food service account. No charging is allowed for a la carte items.

My family was on the Free and Reduced program for 2020-21 and received a letter to apply again this year. Do I need to do this if meals are free anyway?

Nothing needs to be sent to the school in order to have a student receive meals for free. Free meals are automatically offered to all students regardless of income.

Families that believe they would qualify for the Free and Reduced program normally should still submit a Free and Reduced application as this can qualify you for textbook assistance, PEBT benefits and other assistance programs if approved. Applications are available online in Skyward Parent Access or in your school office. The Food Service Department will send a letter to the parent's email with the benefit notification of approval or denial. All information submitted on these applications is private and confidential.

I received a Direct Certification letter that my household is approved for reduced benefits for the 2021-22 school year, do I need to submit a Free and Reduced application too? If you feel your income could qualify you for free benefits, then you may want to submit a Free and Reduced application. The better benefit will be applied.

Will I get textbook assistance because meals are free? In order to receive textbook assistance you need to be Direct Certified through the State or be approved for Free or Reduced benefits from an application.

Why should I have my child eat the free meals? It extends your food budget and saves you time prepping lunches. It offers assistance to families by minimizing the financial challenges during a pandemic.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.