



School Meal Highlights for School Year 2022-23

Congress did not extend federal school meal waivers and school meals will no longer be available to ALL students free of charge effective at the start of School Year (SY) 2022-23.

Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications

Schools must make available and resume processing free and reduced price meal applications from households for SY 2022-23.

- This ensures students in qualifying households receive free or reduced priced meal benefits and schools receive Kansas At-Risk funding.
- Applications cannot be distributed to households prior to July 1, 2022.
- Applications must be made available to all households, but completion is not required.
- The SY 2021-22 Household Economic survey cannot be used to provide a 30-day carryover for students for SY 2022-23.
- The most recent free and reduced price application eligibility determination or Direct Certification data back to SY 2019-20 can be carried over for up to 30 operating days into the 2022-23 school year (or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first).
- Continue to directly certify students to reduce paperwork for families.
- A Kansas Online Application for Free and Reduced Priced Meals can be used by Sponsors free of charge or Sponsors can be approved to use an existing online application.

School Meal Reimbursement

- Schools receive reimbursement for each free, reduced, and paid meal that is served.
- Reimbursement rates differ based on the eligibility status and are set at the federal level.
- Reimbursement rates for SY 2022-23 are typically released by mid-July.

Pricing School Meals

Students who do not qualify for free meals will be charged for each meal they take effective at the start of SY 2022-2023.

- Local school boards are required to set and approve student and adult meal prices annually.
 - The student cost for a full price meal may vary by grade level.
- Reduced price can be no more than 30 cents per breakfast meal and 40 cents per lunch meal.
 - Schools can charge less or even waive the cost of reduced price meals, which is an allowable cost to the food service fund.
- Universal free lunch is not allowable due to the paid lunch equity tool requirements.
- Schools choosing to serve adults must price adult meals to cover the entire cost of the meal.

Written Meal Charge Policy

- All schools must have a written policy to address situations when a student does not have sufficient funds on hand or in their account to pay for a reimbursable meal.
- The written policy approved by the local school board must:
 - Address how students are impacted by having insufficient funds.
 - Include information regarding the collection of delinquent meal charge debt.
 - Be provided in writing to all households at the start of each school year and to households that transfer to the school during the school year.
 - Be communicated to all staff responsible for enforcing any aspect of the policy.



For more information, contact:
Cheryl S. Johnson
Director, Child Nutrition & Wellness
(785) 296-2276
www.kn-eat.org
csjohnson@ksde.org

Kansas State Department of Education
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.org

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