

**Child Nutrition Services Announces**  
**FREE BREAKFAST AND FREE LUNCH MEALS**  
**for all Enrolled Students for the 2026-27 School Year**

Beginning in school year 2022-2023, and continuing through school year 2024-2025, California became the first state to implement a statewide Universal Meals Program for school children. Education Code 49501.5 requires public school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools serving students in grades TK-12 to provide two meals free of charge (breakfast and lunch) during each school day to students requesting a meal, regardless of their free or reduced-price meal eligibility. Meal applications will not be needed to receive the free daily breakfast and/or lunch meal.

Although meals will be free for all, the state continues to require school districts to distribute and collect free/reduced-price meal applications. Free/reduced-price meal applications allow the district to collect essential data needed to qualify for additional school funding intended to support academic programs for your student. Additionally, free/reduced eligibility can qualify households for things such as discounted internet services, P-EBT benefits, discounted rates on your energy bill, and more. Households are encouraged to apply online at [www.myschoolapps.com](http://www.myschoolapps.com).

Here in the Child Nutrition Services Department, we go a step beyond to ensure your child is getting the most health conscious and appealing food we can provide. All items we serve are made with whole grains. We serve only 100% beef and chicken products, with no fillers, by-products, or textured vegetable proteins. We are also continuing to offer over 80% organic produce on all school site salad bars! For a better understanding of our program, school site menus, and what we have to offer, please visit our website [here](#). The "Why Eat School Lunch" Brochure on the website is a great resource to understand our regulations for the program because we can't just serve anything!

At the Elementary School level, each student will be able to come through the line and get one free breakfast and/or lunch meal per day. This includes the choice of one entrée, one milk, and whatever fruits/vegetables they would like from the salad bar. Breakfast will be served from 7:40am-8:00am while school is in session. Only those students receiving breakfast may enter the school grounds before the gates open. All students will receive a free meal by utilizing the HI-5 Wave Scanner. A fast, contactless, encrypted code using the wave of their hand. No more meal cards to lose or pin numbers to remember! Check out the "Important Forms & Resources" tab [here](#) for more information. During recess/snack time, a Second Chance Breakfast program will be available for those students who need it. This will only be for those students who did not receive breakfast prior to school starting. Silver Strand Elementary will begin this program at the start of the school year while Village Elementary will begin by Thanksgiving break.

At the Middle and High School level, each student will be able to come through the line and get one free breakfast and/or lunch meal per day. This includes the choice of one entrée, one milk, one juice, and whatever fruits/vegetables they would like from the salad bar. Breakfast at the Middle School will take place before the bell from 7:45-8:05am and again during the morning break period for those who did not get breakfast before the bell. Breakfast at the High School will take place from 8:00-8:25am daily and again during the morning break period as well.

At the Middle and High School level, all students will receive a free meal by utilizing the HI-5 Wave Scanner. A fast, contactless, encrypted code using the wave of their hand. No more pin numbers to remember! Check out the "Important Forms & Resources" tab [here](#) for more information. There is a nutrition break where students may purchase a la carte items, such as snacks and drinks, using the HI-5 Wave Scanner. The lunch period also has a la carte items along with the featured lunch specials. A la carte snacks will be denied if there is no money on the student's account, though breakfast and lunch meals will never be denied.

Second meals will be allowed for purchase at the Middle and High School level at the end of service if meals are still available. This will ensure that all students are able to get a first meal if they desire. If students are still hungry, the salad bar is buffet style, and they may go through the line again for unlimited fresh fruits and vegetables. Please note, packaged items are not unlimited or buffet style.

Payments for a la carte sales may be made by cash or check in the "CNS Deposit" box at each of our school offices. For your convenience, credit card charges can be made online by logging on to [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) and setting up an account. You must register for MySchoolBucks to add money to your student's account. Here, you can view your child's account balance anytime and receive reminder emails. In addition, those who have a smart phone can download the MySchoolBucks app to make payments and check balances for your child's meal account even easier.

We hope you enjoy what we have to offer and please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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1. mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

2. fax:

202-690-7442; or

3. email:

[Program.Intake@usda.gov](mailto:Program.Intake@usda.gov).

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