

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We want to update you regarding the free school meals that {District Name} has been able to serve to your children since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic in March 2020. At the start of the pandemic, the federal government created a national policy that allowed schools in the country to provide free meals to all students. As of June 30, 2022, this national policy has ended. Though we had hoped this would not be the case, we are moving forward with what is required and want to ensure all families are best prepared for this change in policy.

This means there will be a return to the traditional system this school year for {District Name} families, where students receive free, reduced-price, or full-price meals based upon income status. Both free and reduced-price meals will be provided at no charge. To ensure we can provide free or reduced-price meals to as many families as possible, we need families to complete the household Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals as soon as possible.

This Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals is the most important thing that you can do to prepare for the start of school and it can be found at {website where application will be posted}. We strongly encourage ALL families to submit this form, as it is very important to the district's records and allows us to also {waive fees, etc. for those who qualify}.

In addition, please consider applying for SNAP, the federal nutrition program that provides eligible residents with monthly financial assistance to purchase groceries. Families that receive SNAP qualify for free school meals. More information on applying for SNAP can be found at <https://www.ny.gov/services/apply-snap>.

The food and nutrition department at {District Name} thanks you for your patience during this change and we understand the burden that this will place on many families. As always, we are grateful for the opportunity to provide nourishing and healthy meals to all {District Name} students so please reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Best,

{School Nutrition Director Name}