

What is School Nutrition?

School lunch menus are planned to provide at least one-half of a child's Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA). The school nutrition program has come a long way since Congress passed the School Lunch Act back in 1946!

School breakfast provides at least one-fourth of a child's RDA. All of our schools offer breakfast programs. Many of our schools offer Breakfast-on-the-Go where students select their breakfast & go to the classroom.

Every child needs a healthy breakfast and lunch each school day. Good nutrition is critical to student achievement.

The better-nourished student will generally have better attendance, be more attentive, and have more energy to cope with school-day challenges.

Studies have shown that students who eat breakfast at school score higher on standardized tests and have fewer discipline problems.

Highlights of the School Nutrition Program

***Affordable prices**

- **Menus** are planned at the local school level to incorporate students' suggestions and preferences.
- **Meals** adhere to the dietary guidelines with less fat, sugar, and salt.
- **Choices** can be made from a wide variety of fresh, tasty, nutritious menu items daily.
- **All snacks** purchased from the school are smart snack approved unless school has requested a waiver.
- **The Walker County Wellness Policy** states meals in the cafeteria must be purchased from the school or brought from home in the morning in food safe containers.
- **The Walker County Wellness Policy** encourages exercise and activity at school.
- **School Nutrition** managers and staff provide individualized nutrition education.
- **Skilled,** professional management are on-site keeping healthy meals affordable to all students.

Parents are encouraged to Pre-pay for meals.....

- * It's convenient.
- * Eliminates the need for daily lunch money.
- * Avoids charged meals.
- * Reduces chance of losing money
- * Quicker service in cafeteria lines.
- * You can view your student(s) meal balances on Power School Parent account. Balances are also shown in myschoolbucks if you have an account.
- * If student account balance reaches \$5.00 in meal charges you will receive a phone call and a charge notice reminding you to send money in for student(s) account.
- * We feed your student(s) on good faith of payment. Please call your school's cafeteria manager or the School Nutrition Office if you have questions.
- * Extra purchases are allowed only if funds are available.

Tips for paying and pre-paying student meals. . .

You may pay for your child's meals in advance by making online payments, sending cash or check for the amount you wish to pay. Online payments can be made at myschoolbucks.com. Payments can be made as often as you like with a fee. Review the payment plans available to save money. If paying with cash please place in an envelope with your child's name, student account number, amount of deposit, and teacher's name on the front of the envelope. Checks should have the students' name and student account number written clearly on the front. The check should also have the parent(s) or guardian(s) name, physical address, and two telephone numbers. Checks should be made payable to the name of your child's school cafeteria for the amount to be deposited to your child's account. Envision Payment Solutions processes returned checks for school nutrition. If we receive a check that does not clear the bank, it will be handled by Envision. You will be contacted directly by Envision to make arrangements to pay the check amount plus any service charge that may be incurred. If you do not properly respond to Envision or Envision is unable to contact you, Envision may re-present your check to the bank electronically along with applicable collection fees, which can be substantial. If a check is returned, we can no longer accept checks on that account until the returned check has been paid in full. Please send cash or money order until outstanding checks have cleared. New this year, Walker County School Nutrition is participating in Special Assistance Certification and Reimbursement Alternative Provision II. Meaning all students will receive breakfast at no charge.

Meal Prices

Lunch

Days	Elementary	Middle/High
Daily	\$ 2.10	\$ 2.35
5 days	\$ 10.50	\$ 11.75
10 days	\$ 21.00	\$ 23.50
20 days	\$ 42.00	\$ 47.00

Free and Reduced Meals

Applications are required for the free & reduced program. Applications will be made available to each student. The application process is a family application; therefore, only one application has to be completed for your family.

New this year, Online Applications are available. Go to: myschoolapps.com and follow the step by step instructions.

- All students/family, including foster children, must fill out a Free & Reduced application every year to qualify for Free & reduced meals.
- All information is kept very, very confidential. With the numerous systems in place, no one knows if a student is free, reduced or full pay in the schools.
- Children will be charged full price for meals until their applications have been processed at the central office. This applies to all students. No exceptions.
- Applications are processed in the order they arrive at the central office, not the date they are returned to school.
- Children who finished the previous school year on a free or reduced status will start the new school year on this status. This status is for the first 30 days of school. If a new application is not turned in within the first 30 days his/her status will automatically go to full pay.
- Students are responsible for all charges made prior to the processing date of their application.
- You may bring an application by the School Nutrition Office anytime during the school year or contact us by phone (706-638-7969). We will do our best to help you.
- If you have any changes within the year (examples: income, number in household, foster children, SNAP (food stamps), please contact the school nutrition office at 706/638-7969 or fill out a new application immediately and return to school with your child.
- All applications must have a signature & last 4 digits of social security number for processing.
- Applications are available all year long. It does not change prior charges but can possibly assist with future purchases.