

MEAL PROGRAM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How does my child deposit money into their meal account?

The student or parent brings cash or a check to the school office in a sealed envelope with the student's name, grade, and amount enclosed on the outside of the envelope. There is a lunch deposit box on the desk on the Attendance Office. Money deposited by 9 a.m. is accessible by lunchtime. You may also use PayPal to send money for your student's meals. Just go to the school district website at www.republicschools.org, click on the Food Service tab, then click on the PayPal link and follow the directions. PayPal charges a nominal fee which is deducted from your payment amount.

My child receives free meal benefits, how can they access their account?

Once approved for this benefit, the student continues to present their school ID to the cashier at breakfast and lunch. The computer automatically processes the meal as free.

My child receives reduced price meal benefits, how can they access their account?

Once approved for reduced meal benefits, the student can either deposit money into their account, or they can pay the cashier \$.40 for lunch or \$.30 for breakfast as they purchase their meal. They still must show their student ID. Depositing money into their account and using their student ID card to access the account provides the most privacy for the student.

My child receives free or reduced price meal benefits, what selections can be made for breakfast and lunch?

Free or reduced price meal benefits pay for one breakfast and lunch per day. Second meals or extra items are not covered by meal benefits. Breakfast offers the choice of an entrée, fresh fruit or small juice, and small milk. At least two of these items must be taken to count for free or reduced meal benefits. During lunch, the student must choose an entrée and two different sides (may take up to four) to count for free or reduced meal benefits. Daily entrée choices include hamburger, cheeseburger, chicken sandwich, house pizza, soup of the day, pasta, entrée salads, cold sandwiches, and the daily entrée special. Side choices include a side salad, fresh or canned fruit, vegetables, breadstick, crackers, dessert, and small juice or small milk. A large bottle of milk (16 oz) can be purchased as part of the meal for an extra 60 cents. If students select items not included in these meal combinations, or "a la carte" items, or extras of the same item, they must pay for these items.

What happens if my child loses their ID card?

Students cannot access their account without it. The student must use cash for purchases until a new ID card is made. Stolen cards should be reported immediately to the school office. Replacement ID cards cost \$3 and may be obtained in the office. The cost can be paid in cash or deducted from the student's meal account.

Can my child purchase a lunch without using their ID card?

Students not wishing to use their ID may continue to purchase meals using cash. However, the use of their ID is strongly recommended, as it speeds up the service lines and provides the greatest privacy to students.

What is the price of school lunch and breakfast?

A school lunch costs \$2.00 for full price, \$.40 for reduced, and is at no charge for free benefits. Full price breakfast is \$1.25, reduced is \$.30, and free breakfast is at no charge. Adult breakfast is \$1.80 and adult lunch is \$2.80.

Are there additional items available to purchase?

There are a wide variety of a la carte items for sale at breakfast and lunch. These include bottled beverages, chips, ice cream, packaged cookies, snack/cereal bars, etc. Free or reduced meal benefits cannot be used to purchase additional items.

My child received free or reduced benefits last year; will they automatically receive these benefits this year?

NO! A new application must be completed each year. Your child will receive these benefits the first 30 days of school only. To continue getting benefits after this time, a new application must be approved for the current school year before the 30 days expire.

Can I apply for free or reduced benefits during the school year?

You may apply for meal benefits any time during the school year. Applications may be picked up in the office or call to request one be mailed to you.

Is breakfast available to all students?

All students are encouraged to participate in the breakfast program.