

Breakfast and Lunch Offered at No Cost in All Schools

The Pawling Central School District is now able to provide breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students in all schools. This is being made possible by the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) designation granted to the District by the New York State Education Department, and will be effective starting on Wednesday, November 1.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)?

A: The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a funding option under the National School Lunch Act that allows eligible schools to provide free meals to all students.

Q: Do I need to fill out an application for my child to receive meals at no cost?

A: No, families do not need to fill out an application for their child to gain eligibility for breakfast and lunch at no cost. However, families are still encouraged to fill out and send back the Household Income Eligibility Form, which can be found on the District's website. Completion of the applications helps the District receive State funding and can provide additional benefits for students and families. Examples of these benefits include district supplied band and orchestra instruments, waived exam fees, and more.

Q: What does CEP cover for my child?

A: With the CEP designation, all Pawling Central School District enrolled students can receive one healthy breakfast and one nutritious lunch per school day.

Q: I'm new to the District and/or the Food Services program - what does a healthy lunch entail for my child? What about breakfast?

A: A healthy lunch always consists of five components: a protein, grain, fruit, vegetable, and milk. To be considered a full meal, children must choose at least three of these components, including either a fruit or vegetable. A full breakfast consists of four components: two grains (main entree), one cup of fruit/juice, one cup of milk. Students must choose three of the four components offered with one of those components being a fruit/juice.

Q: Can my child still purchase snacks and à la carte items? What about a second breakfast or lunch?

A: Yes, snacks and à la carte items (including milk) are available. However, students will need cash or funds in their prepaid accounts to make these purchases. Also, only the first breakfast and first lunch of the day are free.

Q: How can I add funds to my child's account to make those types of purchases?

A: You can add funds by sending a check or cash in with your child or virtually through MySchoolBucks, an online school meal payment system. Please visit the school food service webpage for more information on payments: https://www.pawlingschools.org/food_services

Q: What if I already have money in my child's account for meals? Can I get it back?

A: Parents can either request a refund from the Food Services Department or leave the funds on their student's account for à la carte items or snacks. Please send an email to collical@pcsdny.org to request a refund. Please include first name, last name and ID # of the student. Also, include parent/guardian name and address where the reimbursement check should be mailed. If there is automatic replenishment on your student's MySchoolBucks account, please discontinue the feature before requesting meal account reimbursement.

Q: What if there is negative debt left on my child's account?

A: Free breakfasts and lunches are not retroactive and any negative debt incurred prior to November 1, 2023 will remain on the student's account until payment is received.

Q: What if my child brings their own lunch and just wants some milk or a piece of fruit?

A: According to State guidelines, in order to access the free meal benefit, a child must take what counts as a full meal, which means choosing at least three of the five components (including a fruit or vegetable) that make up the meal. Food Services staff will guide your child in understanding what constitutes a full meal.

Q: Does funding for school meals come out of my school taxes?

A: No, meals and food at schools are not funded by your school tax dollars. Instead, the funding comes from Federal and State taxes.