

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOOL MEALS FOR 2022-2023**

The federal USDA waivers that have allowed school districts to provide school breakfast and lunch at no cost to students for the past two years are set to expire on June 30, 2022. Unless the USDA extends the federal waivers for the upcoming school year, families who do not qualify for free meals can expect to resume paying full or reduced price for school meals when school resumes on Wednesday, August 10th.

The Child Nutrition Department will continue to communicate any changes that may occur with the federal school meals program and the 2022-2023 meal prices (once board approved) over the course of the summer months. Updates will be posted to the district website, social media, and SchoolCast.

All families are strongly encouraged to complete a free and reduced meal application for the 2022-2023 school year. Free and reduced meal applications for the 2022-2023 school year will be available starting August 1, 2022. Paper applications will be sent home with students at the start of the school year. Only one application needs to be completed per family and we encourage submission of a new application if income decreases or household size increases.

We will continue to provide breakfast to our students at no cost, however, many students have grown accustomed to picking up school lunch at school due to meals being provided at no cost over the past two years. It is important that families take time before school resumes in August to discuss school meal participation plans with your child since this could cost money for your household depending on your student's income based meal status or the submission of an application.

Throughout the COVID pandemic, the Child Nutrition Department Staff of Piedmont City Schools has worked tirelessly to continue to provide meals to the children of our city. Thank you for allowing us to provide meals to your families and for your understanding as we transition our program to follow the new rules and regulations governing it set forth by the USDA and the Alabama State Department of Education.

*Pam Dempsey*