



Dr. Rebecca Farley • Director of Schools

Mr. Scott Vanwinkle • Board Chairman

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are pleased to announce that your school will continue to implement an option available to select schools in Tennessee that participate in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. It is called the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

The Community Eligibility Provision, a key provision of The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, allows the nation's highest poverty districts and schools to serve all students free meals without the burden of collecting household applications. This alternative saves districts and schools time and money by streamlining paperwork and administrative requirements. CEP gives foodservice professionals more time to focus on preparing nutritious meals their students will enjoy and gives students more time to eat those meals by cutting down on time spent in the lunch line. Because all students receive meals at no charge, individual children at CEP schools no longer must worry about the stigma associated with free or reduced-price status. And most importantly, by offering all students a nutritious breakfast and lunch at no cost, CEP helps boost participation, helping schools ensure more students come to class well-nourished and ready to learn. For more information, visit:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/community-eligibility-provision>

What does CEP mean for my student(s) who attend a participating school? In a CEP school, **all** students receive a nutritious breakfast and lunch at no cost, regardless of family income.

What if my child changes schools? Your child is eligible for free meals at the school where he/she is currently enrolled. If he/she eats meals at or transfers to a non-CEP school during the school year, you may be responsible for meal charges. If transferring to a non-CEP school, a free/reduced application is required to be considered for free or reduced-price meals.

Withdrawn students and/or graduating students with money left in the child's meal account? Please request any money left in your child's meal account no later than 10 days after the last day of enrollment. Requests should be written and can be made to the following address above or to the email below. Please include the following information: child's name, your name, phone number, and the correct address for the check to be mailed. A request can also be made to transfer the funds to a sibling or another account. Any money under \$25.00 left in your child's account after the 10 days of the withdrawal or graduation will be transferred to an "extra money" account and be deemed as a donation in our computer system to be used for other accounts in need.

If paying with cash, ALL change will be applied to the student's meal account. This helps to decrease the spread of germs and gives students more time to eat meals by cutting down on time spent in the lunch line. You may pay in cash, check or at <https://linqconnect.com/>

Payments may be made free of charge by cash or check.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Hamby at khamby@ccschools.k12tn.net or 931-484-6722.

Respectfully,

Kathy Hamby

Kathy Hamby, SNS District Supervisor

Central Services – School Nutrition Program

- Cumberland County Board of Education 368 Fourth Street Crossville, TN. 38555
Phone: 931-484-6135 Fax: 931-484-6491

IMPORTANT Information from Your School Cafeteria

Please pay for meals and a la cart items in one of the following ways:

- ➔ Online at <https://linqconnect.com/>
- ➔ Check
- ➔ Cash



Cash and check payments may be made at any school at no charge!

If paying with cash, ALL change will be applied to student's meal account. This will help speed up the line to allow more time to eat breakfast and lunch.

Thank you for your help and

Have a wonderful year!

School Payments

Easy as 1, 2, 3



1. Visit Our Website

Go to linqconnect.com.
Access from any computer,
tablet or mobile device.



2. Create A Free Account

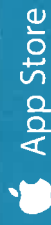
Our user-friendly portal
makes signing up easy
and quick.



3. Add Funds

Add funds securely
to student accounts.

Mobile App
also available





MYPLATE GUIDE TO

SCHOOL BREAKFAST

for Families



FRUITS

A full cup of fruit is available every day, providing nutrients that are important for kids' health, such as potassium, dietary fiber, vitamin C, and folate (folic acid).

MILK



Kids and teens need the calcium, protein, and vitamin D found in milk for strong bones, teeth, and muscles.



VEGETABLES

Every breakfast does not include vegetables, but schools may offer them in place of fruits.



PROTEIN FOODS

Some breakfast menus may offer items such as eggs, nuts, or meats to pair with whole-grain options.



GRAINS

Starting every day the whole grains way gives kids and teens B vitamins, minerals, and fiber to feel fuller longer so they stay alert to concentrate at school.



Visit teamnutrition.usda.gov for additional tips and activities.



HOW DOES SCHOOL BREAKFAST HELP FAMILIES?



Fuels learning

Kids and teens can concentrate on their schoolwork better when they're not hungry. Studies show that kids do better in school when they eat breakfast.



Provides better nutrition

Studies show that people who eat breakfast have higher intakes of dietary fiber, B vitamins, calcium, iron, and other nutrients.



Saves time

School breakfast can simplify mornings for families by offering kids and teens healthy options that fit into their schedule.

HOW CAN FAMILIES HELP THEIR CHILD EAT A HEALTHY BREAKFAST?

- Read the menu with your child to make sure your student knows about all the foods that are included in their school breakfast.
- Find out how your parent organization can work with school nutrition professionals to promote breakfast options at your school, such as Breakfast in the Classroom.



Visit [Choosemyplate.gov/Families](http://ChooseMyPlate.gov/Families) for additional tips and activities for families.

The School Breakfast Program (SBP) provides cash assistance to States to operate nonprofit breakfast programs in schools and residential child care institutions. The USDA Food and Nutrition Service administers the SBP at the Federal level. State agencies administer the SBP at the State level, and local school food authorities operate the Program in schools.

Learn more at: www.fns.usda.gov/sbp/school-breakfast-program-sbp.

FNS-633

August 2016

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.





MYPLATE GUIDE TO SCHOOL LUNCH

for Families



GRAINS

Whole grains give kids B vitamins, minerals, and fiber to help them feel fuller longer so they stay alert to concentrate at school.



PROTEIN FOODS

Meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, peas, eggs, nuts, and seeds provide many nutrients including protein and iron. Portion sizes are based upon the nutrition needs of children in various grade groups. School meals also allow cheese, tofu, and yogurt to count as the meat/meat alternate in the school lunch.

VEGETABLES



A variety of vegetables helps kids get the nutrients and fiber they need for good health.

MILK



Low-fat (1%) or Fat-free milk. Children and teens need the calcium, protein, and vitamin D found in milk for strong bones, teeth and muscles.



FRUITS

Every school lunch includes fruits as well as vegetables. Only 1/2 of the fruits offered may be 100% juice, since whole and cut-up fruits have more fiber.



Visit teamnutrition.usda.gov for additional tips and activities.



HOW DOES SCHOOL LUNCH HELP FAMILIES?



Provides a balanced meal

It meets one-third of the nutrition needs of most children for the day.



Helps kids learn where foods come from

Farm to school programs are in 42 percent of schools which increase kids access to locally produced foods and learning activities such as farmers' visits and school gardening.



Saves time

If you spend 10 minutes a day packing lunch, that adds up to 30 hours (1,800 minutes) each school year.



Supports learning at school

Research shows that kids with healthier eating patterns have better academic performance.



"We grow fruits and vegetables in our school greenhouse, which are harvested and given to the cafeteria to serve on the salad bar. It's great because the landscaping class gets involved, the leadership classes get involved, and even all the marketing plan classes get involved."



Nebraska student

HOW CAN FAMILIES HELP THEIR CHILDREN ENJOY SCHOOL LUNCH?

- Try new foods at home. Kids need many opportunities to taste a new food to "get used to it."
- Talk with your child about what's on the menu. Make sure he or she knows about all the foods that are included in his or her school.
- Eat lunch at school with your child. Learn more about what's offered and meet school nutrition staff.
- Encourage your child or teen to join in taste-testing events or surveys about school lunch, when available.

Visit ChooseMyPlate.gov/Families for additional tips and activities for families.

The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day.

Learn more at: www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/national-school-lunch-program-nslp.

FNS-632

August 2016

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Cumberland County Schools Meal Charge Administrative Procedure

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

As provided in SP 46-2016, all school food authorities (SFAs) operating the federal school meal programs (National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program) must have a written and communicated meal charge administrative procedure in place no later than July 1, 2017. All SFAs must have an administrative procedure in place for children participating at the reduced price or paid meal rate who either do not have money in their account or in hand to cover the cost of the meal at the time of service. SFAs are required to communicate that administrative procedure to families and school and/or district-level staff members as appropriate. SFAs should ensure the administrative procedure is communicated on an annual basis.

Families will have access to the meal charge administrative procedure via packets that are given to each student at the start of each school year. Families of transfer students (during the year) will receive a copy of the district-wide charge administrative procedure with the online enrollment packet.

Local Charge Administrative Procedure – Student Fees & Fines (Policy Reference: 6.709)

Cumberland County School Nutrition believes in the importance of providing healthy nutritious meals for our students. Just as with any services, there is an expense involved with every meal that we provide. We are required to set standards and procedures to address any possible cafeteria charge.

General

Students are able and encouraged to get 1 breakfast and 1 lunch daily at no charge due to all schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision.

Students who want a 2nd breakfast or lunch will have to buy it as a la cart items and a la cart items are never allowed to be charged.

Charge Limits and Household Notification

All students will be given a verbal reminder regarding low balances, so they know when they need additional monies to purchase EXTRA items outside of the normal reimbursable breakfast and lunch.

Alternate meals

No alternate meals will be given. Meals are never changed or withheld as punishment.

Delinquent Debt

Delinquent debt is defined as overdue unpaid meal charges that are considered collectible, with efforts being made to collect them. The debt may remain on the accounting documents until it is either collected or determined to be uncollectable. The debt may be carried over at the end of the school year (beyond June 30). Before the SFA requests payment of the outstanding debt, the household's debt will be delinquent until it is deemed by the Director of Schools that it be classified as bad debt. Collection attempts will continue if the debt is deemed delinquent as a joint effort of the School Cafeteria Manager, the School Office Administrative Staff, the Cumberland County School Nutrition Office, and the Director of Schools' Office. **Furthermore, all unpaid charge accounts could be turned over to the BOE Attorney, and collections. The ONLY unpaid charge accounts would be those of school staff members.**

Bad Debt

- Bad debt is determined to be uncollectable when further collection efforts for delinquent debt are deemed useless or too costly. Delinquent debt will be considered as bad debt as deemed by the Director of Schools.
- Bad debts (debts which have been determined to be uncollectable), including losses (whether actual or estimated) arising from uncollectable accounts and other claims, are unallowable. Related collection costs, and related legal costs, arising from such debts after they have been determined to be uncollectable are also unallowable (section 200.426 of subpart E).
- Bad debt must be written off as an operating loss as deemed by the Director of Schools; the nonprofit school food service account (NSFSA) resources may not be used to cover the costs related to the bad debt. These funds may come from the school district's general fund, school or community organizations, or any other non-federal sources.
- Once delinquent meal charges are converted to bad debt, records relating to those charges must be maintained according to record retention requirements in 7 CFR 210.9(b)(17) and 7 CFR 210.15(b).

Additional Resources

Families may find assistance with applying for free or reduced-price school meals by contacting Kathy Hamby, School Nutrition District Supervisor at khamby@ccschools.k12tn.net or 931-484-6722.

USDA NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the state or local agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, [AD-3027](#), found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. **Mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. **Fax:** (202) 690-7442; or
3. **Email:** program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Revised April 17, 2025