MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department of Food & Nutrition

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM AND PRICING FOR 2026-2027

Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, meal benefits will depend on the school your child attends. A total of 121 schools will continue offering meals at no charge to students under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Students at all other schools will need to submit a Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price meals.

WHY IS IT CHANGING?

For the past four years, all M-DCPS schools participated in the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), allowing students to receive breakfast and lunch at no cost, regardless of household income. As the District's current CEP cycle has concluded, updated Direct Certification (DC) data — the student eligibility data used to determine participation in the federal program shows that not all M-DCPS schools continue to qualify for CEP. As a result, the District will transition to a hybrid CEP model, allowing eligible schools to remain in the CEP program while remaining sites (Non-CEP) will implement Free and Reduced-Price Meal Applications.

WHO DOES NOT NEED TO APPLY FOR BENEFITS?

- Check if your child's school is on the CEP list for school year 2026-2027 **here**.
- If your school is listed as CEP: no action is needed. Students at CEP-listed schools will continue receiving meals at no charge and do not need to submit an application.
- Automatic Eligibility: no action is needed for students who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or who are identified as participating in Head Start, or who are classified as foster, homeless, runaways or migrant.

WHO NEEDS TO APPLY FOR BENEFITS?

- Students at **Non-CEP schools**

HOW DO YOU APPLY FOR MEAL BENEFITS?

Apply online **here** or scan the QR code below to complete the application. Households may apply for meal benefits at any time during the school year.

Scan the QR code or click **here** to complete your Meal Benefits Form.

IS THERE A GRACE PERIOD FOR SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION?

For students who attend schools that determine eligibility through applications, students will receive meals at no charge for the first 30 days of school or until a new eligibility status is determined — whichever comes first. The Free and Reduced-Price Meal Applications will be available on August 10th, 2026. Effective September 28th, 2026, all students whose families have not completed a Free and Reduced-Meal Application, will be required to pay for meals until an application is submitted, processed, and eligibility is determined.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DO NOTHING?

Students at Non-CEP schools who haven't been approved for free or reduced-price meals through a submitted application will be charged full price for meals effective September 28, 2026.

STUDENT MEAL PRICES FOR NON CEP SCHOOLS

Elementary / K-8 Centers	Middle / Senior High
Breakfast: • All students — **NO CHARGE**	Breakfast: • Free-eligible — **NO CHARGE** • Reduced-eligible — **$0.30** • Paid — **$2.50**
Lunch: • Free-eligible — **NO CHARGE** • Reduced-eligible — **$0.40** • Paid — **$4.20**	Lunch: • Free-eligible — **NO CHARGE** • Reduced-eligible — **$0.40** • Paid — **$4.20**

★ *Students eat breakfast and lunch at no charge at all designated CEP schools (see pg. 1)*

ONLINE MEAL PAYMENTS

Parents and guardians are encouraged to create a Paypams account for each student at **Paypams.com**. This platform allows families to add funds for meals and à la carte purchases and to monitor student meal account activity.

CONTACT US

For further information or assistance, visit **mdcpsnutrition.net** or call (786) 275-0400 ext 5000.

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