

SCHOOL MEAL INFORMATION

FOOD SERVICE ACCOUNTS

Computerized food service accounts will exist for each family in the district. All members of the family will use that one account. Charges for breakfast, lunch, extra milk or juice and salad bar (at the high school) will be debited to the account. We recommend that the oldest child in each family be responsible for depositing money in the family account. If money is sent with a student, please pay by check.

FAMILY ACCOUNTS ARE PREPAID ACCOUNTS

Please start the year with a positive balance. We do not send statements. Your children are told when the balance is low. You can track your balance through the parent portal. The status of your account (free, reduced or full pay) is not known to the cashier. If a negative balance exists in an account, children may be denied food service.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Breakfast and lunch are offered each day at each school as well as a sandwich as an alternative for lunch. Another option at the high school is the salad bar and sub sandwiches. Milk is always available. We encourage families to check the income chart shown to determine qualification for free and reduced meals. If your gross income is less than or equal to the amounts shown for your household size, please fill out a free and reduced form. If you do not qualify now but your income changes, forms can be completed at any time during the school year. These income amounts are effective through June 30th of each year.

Household size	Yearly \$	Monthly \$	Weekly \$
1	22,459	1,872	432
2	30,451	2,538	586
3	38,443	3,204	740
4	46,435	3,870	893
5	54,427	4,536	1,047
6	62,419	5,202	1,201
7	70,411	5,868	1,355
8	78,403	6,534	1,508

This chart shows guidelines for the reduced lunches.

FREE AND REDUCED MEALS

Free and reduced meals are available to all who qualify. STUDENTS MUST CHOOSE THREE SEPARATE ITEMS TO QUALIFY FOR FREE/REDUCED PRICE. Free and reduced eligibility does not apply to second meals (doubles) or an extra milk or juice. Funds need to be deposited by the family in order to make those purchases. If you received free or reduced meals during one school year, your eligibility continues through October 15th of the following school year. A new application must be submitted before October 15th in order to requalify without interruption for the balance of the new school year. Applications are available in all schools and the District Office. There also will be a food service mailing, including an application form, sent to all enrolled families before school starts.

The income chart printed above shows qualification guidelines. If your gross income falls within these ranges and family size, you will qualify, so please fill out an application. If you have a foster child, the foster child qualifies for free meals regardless of household income.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED MEALS FOR ANY CHILD (BASED ON GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME)

Household incomes at or below those in the chart above qualify for free or reduced price meals. Completed applications must be in the District Office before August 31st to be effective the first day of school. New or revised applications are accepted any time throughout the school year, but eligibility is not retroactive.

ONE TRAY = ONE MEAL

On some occasions, especially at the high school, students with large appetites eat more than one lunch; they choose "doubles". Because of the different pricing structure and accounting necessary to participate in the Federal Meal Program, lunches cannot be combined on trays. One tray will represent one full lunch. If a second lunch is taken, it is considered a "double." The double will cost more than the first meal because we do not receive funding for "doubles". The price for doubles is listed in the meal prices chart.

WHAT IS OFFER VS SERVE?

Offer vs Serve was designed to lessen food waste and give autonomy to students eating school meals. The Aitkin schools participate with Offer vs Serve, allowing students to take a minimum of three of the five required food items on the menu, one of which has to be a half cup of fruit or vegetables. Of course, students are encouraged to take all five food items. When combined with a wide variety of food choices, this program offers many advantages.

Students who are lactose intolerant will be provided a lactose free (soy product) milk upon written request from a physician.

ACCESS YOUR BALANCE ONLINE

Create a login for the parent portal. Sign in, Go Mobile. District # is TCXXZP. If you need a password call Sheri at: 218-927-7121 or email at ssanbeck@isd1.org.

LUNCH ACCOUNT ACCESS

All students, grades K-12, are required to know and use their four-digit student I.D. numbers to register their meal charges.