

Hello Dallas School District families, students and community members,

We're working hard to keep you informed as we continue to prepare for the 2020-21 school year. Here are a few updates as we finish the week --

Breakfast and Lunch Information -- The last day of our summer meal program is next Wednesday, August 26. The school year meal program begins on September 8. Unfortunately, that means the school district is not able to provide free breakfast and lunch meals for anyone ages 1-18 between August 27 and September 4. I also want you to know that we are required to return to the rules of the traditional National School Lunch Program on September 8. Beginning then we can serve meals only to those students enrolled in Dallas School District. The free eligibility rules will also apply. Note the expansion of these rules on the attachment. This is great news. There is other information about food service on the attachments, which were sent late this week to all households via the postal service.

Start up Information from Schools -- Principals and their staff members are sending school specific information to all families with enrolled students. Families can expect to receive information by Monday or Tuesday of next week. Please contact staff members in the offices at any of our schools if you have questions.

Comprehensive Distance Learning -- We continue to prepare for this required model of instruction to begin the school year. We're also updating the school district website each week. You will find a lot of information related to our opening efforts and support for families. Here is the link to our website. <https://www.dallas.k12.or.us/corona-virus>

Some are asking about our ability to offer "limited" on-site instruction for students this fall. We are waiting for additional clarification from the Oregon Department of Education about this option and will share it with you as soon as we know.

Technology Survey -- We are keeping this survey "active" through Monday of next week to obtain more information about student technology needs in the district. If you have not completed the survey, please click on the following link. It takes only a few minutes. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/>

Thank you again for your partnership and continued understanding as we prepare for the new school

Andy Bellando, Interim Superintendent

You may also access the following lunch information at this District website link.

<https://www.dallas.k12.or.us/food-service>

Fall 2020 Food Service Meal program changes

On September 8, 2020, the district Food Services program will begin serving both breakfast and lunch to our students. Meals will continue to be served in a non-congregate “grab ‘n go” style with both meals delivered at the same time, from 11:00 am until 12:00 pm on each day that school would normally be in session.

There will be a very significant difference. The USDA waiver that allowed free meal to all children aged 1-18 beginning in March 2020 under the Summer Food Service program ended June with the last day of school. When we reopen this fall we will be required to operate under the traditional National School lunch program that operates normally during each school year. These are the key differences:

1. **Only enrolled students can be served.** Parents can still pick up for their student as this federal waiver has been extended. However, whether it is the student or parent, the student’s ID number or name will be required for verification/look-up in order to receive a meal.
2. **The student’s mealtime account will be charged for the meal.** The eligibility of the student, whether free, reduced or a paid is required by USDA to be tracked in order to for the district to claim reimbursement.
3. Since **enrolled students must be verified prior to receiving meals**; meals will be served at school sites only. All school sites will be able to access enrolled students district-wide in order that **parents can pick up for all enrolled students at one site** instead of traveling to each school attended by their children in the same household.
4. Children that are not enrolled can still be served, however, payment must be made prior to receiving the meal for nonprogram services.
5. Food service staff on site will be able to accept money and checks for paid students at the point of service. If paying with cash, please have exact amount as staff will be unable to make change.
6. Meal prices have not increased for 2020-21. They are:

School	2020-21 Lunch Price	2020-21 Breakfast Price
Dallas High School	3.35	1.75
LaCreole Middle School	3.10	1.75
Whitworth Elementary	2.85	1.50
Lyle Elementary	2.85	1.50
Oakdale Elementary	2.85	1.50
Morrison	3.35	1.75
PADTC	3.10	1.75
Milk AlaCarte	0.60	0.60
Adult/Non-Student	4.00	3.00

There is discussion at the USDA national level to reinstitute the summer food service waiver that allowed Dallas School District to feed all children regardless of their enrollment, ages 1-18. Unless and until that waiver is approved at the national level, we must be prepared to implement the drive through system in a manner that allows for student verification. This will necessitate a two-stop approach; the first stop will verify student enrollment and claim the meal on the student(s) account. A slip will be provided that will instruct the staff at the next stop how many meals to provide each recipient. One breakfast and one lunch will be provided for each enrolled student each day.

Oregon expands income eligibility for free meals

Great News! Oregon has expanded income eligibility for the Free and Reduced meal applications allowing many more families to qualify for free meals. This was one of the statewide initiatives funded by the Student Success Act of 2019. The increase is significant and will allow many more families to qualify.

<i>Oregon Expanded Income Guideline (EIG)</i> Oregon students may qualify for EIG meals at no charge* if the household income falls at or below the limits on this chart and above the limits on the Federal Reduced Price Meal chart.					
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
-1-	38,280	3,190	1,595	1,472	736
-2-	51,720	4,310	2,155	1,989	995
-3-	65,160	5,430	2,715	2,506	1,253
-4-	78,600	6,550	3,275	3,023	1,512
-5-	92,040	7,670	3,835	3,540	1,770
-6-	105,480	8,790	4,395	4,057	2,028
Each additional household member will add	13,440	1,120	560	517	258

**** IMPORTANT ****

Submit your application as soon as possible; until your free and reduced application is approved, your child will be in a “paid” status where parents are responsible for paying for the meals. The applications, when approved, are effective as of the date approved, not retroactive to the date meal services begin.

The paper version of the Free and Reduced Application has been revised and is available through your school, the district office or on the District Food Services webpage under the “Parents” sub heading. You can also apply online through Oregon Department of Education Child Nutrition Program. A link to file online can be found by visiting the district’s webpage at: <https://www.dallas.k12.or.us/free-and-reduced-lunches>.