



Nutrition Services
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Parents and Guardians,

Beginning September 18, 2019 any child who did not qualify for free or reduced price meals will be charged \$2.85 per lunch. Breakfast will continue to be at no cost to all students. The nutrition department will continue accepting applications and a new application can be submitted any time there is a change in household income. Paper applications can be requested from the school or nutrition department or you may apply online using the meal application link at the top of our website: <https://richmondcountynutritionservices.com>. We also have a new link to our online meal payments website: My School Bucks located at the top of our website.

In addition, I would like to take the opportunity to clarify a few points that have been brought up by parents:

1. Meal applications are NOT mandatory. Parents do not have to fill out an application if they do not wish to receive meals at reduced or no cost.
2. Your information is not shared with anyone. As the nutrition director, I am the only person who has access to income information provided on applications and it is against federal guidelines to share that confidential information without prior approval given by you, the parent or guardian.
3. Until this year all schools have operated under Community Eligibility Provision since SY2014 meaning all students received meals at no cost. Eligibility is based on the number of students who receive SNAP or TANF and therefore automatically qualify for free meals (direct certification). Because of the lower number of household receiving SNAP or TANF at Walker, Davidson, and Freedom Park, those schools no longer qualify to operate under CEP.
4. There is good news! Because the number of directly certified students is low at these three schools, the school does not receive as much Title 1 funding as other schools with higher percentages. However, now that students are qualifying for free and reduced price meals, this will increase the percentages equaling more Title 1 dollars for your child's school.
5. The program we use is a software program that uses the eligibility guidelines provided each year by the USDA to determine free or reduced price eligibility based on income and household size. That information is not shared with any other entity or organization. The online application information is generated into a software program that I use to process online applications. It is not cloud based.

If there are any other questions or concerns about the meal application process or the nutrition program, I am happy to assist and welcome your calls and emails.

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