



MEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT NUTRITION SERVICES

Your 2026–27 Family Guide to School Meals

12509 N Market St. Bldg. E, Mead, WA 99021 • (509) 465-6100 • nutrition@mead354.org

Welcome back! This newsletter has everything your family needs to know about school meals this year, how to pay, what things cost, and how to apply for meal benefits. It only takes a few minutes to read, and it answers the questions we hear most often.

REAL FOOD, MADE FOR KIDS

We believe good food helps kids learn better. Every meal is **free of artificial dyes and high-fructose corn syrup**, lower in sodium and sugar, and built around fresh fruits and vegetables including many favorites made from scratch, like our *Mac & Cheese*, *Cajun Chicken Pasta*, *Chili*, *Spaghetti with Meat Sauce*, *Chicken Alfredo*, and *Nacho Cheese Sauce*. Students help us taste-test new recipes throughout the year before they make it onto the menu!

Local & regional produce: we're partnering again with Whitestone Mountain Orchard for whole organic apples in every school, plus seasonal local produce like asparagus, blueberries, blackberries, tomatoes, carrots, potatoes, and parsnips.

FIND THE MENU IN SECONDS

The free **My School Menus** app lets you check breakfast & lunch menus, filter out allergens, and translate menus into other languages — on your phone, tablet, or computer: mead.healtheliving.net

Apple iOS



Scan or search "My School Menus"

Android



Scan or search "My School Menus"

AT THE MEAL LINE

We serve breakfast and lunch that meet federal nutrition standards, including produce from our Farm to School program. Check your school's website for meal service times.

- **Elementary students** need to say their **first AND last name** loud and clear for the cashier — a little practice at home keeps the line moving fast!
- **Middle/High school students** need to memorize their **5-digit student ID#** (in PowerSchool or on their class schedule) or scan their ID badge so they get more time to eat.
- **Breakfast** is an important start to the day and makes sure your child is ready to learn. All of our schools offer a variety of breakfast choices every morning.

MEAL PRICES 2026–27

	Breakfast	Lunch	Reduced Breakfast	Reduced Lunch	Milk Only (no meal)
Elementary	\$1.85	\$2.95	no cost	no cost	\$0.65
Middle / High	\$2.00	\$3.50	no cost	no cost	\$0.65
Adults	\$4.00	\$5.75	n/a	n/a	\$0.65

ADDING MONEY TO YOUR CHILD'S ACCOUNT



Scan the QR code to go straight to PowerSchool and deposit money into your child's meal account. Funds are usable within 4–6 hours, and there's no service fee for card payments. Prefer another way? Pay at your child's school office, send cash or a check in an envelope labeled with their name and the amount, or visit: meadschools.powerschool.com

Meal charging & negative balances: see the attached procedure for full details on how our district handles unpaid meal charges.

MEALS AT NO COST FOR STUDENTS AT THESE SCHOOLS

If your child attends **Brentwood, Colbert, Creekside, Evergreen, Farwell, Meadow Ridge, Shiloh Hills Elementary, Mountainside Middle, or Mead Learning Options**, breakfast and lunch are offered at **NO COST** for all students under state law HB 1878 & HB 1238.

NUTRITION & PHYSICAL EDUCATION POLICY

District Policy & Procedure 6700 covers nutrition and PE guidelines district-wide — your school may have additional practices in place. Read [Procedure 6700](#) and [Policy 6700](#). More on Healthy Celebrations: mead.healtheliving.net

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS

Every child deserves access to a healthy school meal, including students with disabilities that require dietary accommodations (like allergies or digestive conditions). We accommodate students as soon as we are informed of a disability but must still receive specific documentation from a recognized medical authority.

Next step: return a completed & signed [Special Dietary Accommodations](#) form to your school nurse. Students with life-threatening conditions must have physician orders and a health care plan on file before attending school.

APPLY FOR BENEFITS ONLINE (CNEEB)

One short application can unlock a lot: meal benefits, Summer EBT, reduced or waived fees for other programs, and funding for your school. It takes just a few minutes, and you can apply anytime your household situation changes.

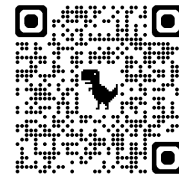
- Household members do not need to be U.S. citizens for children to qualify and completing the application has **no impact on immigration status**.
- No computer at home? Visit our office at 12509 N Market St. Bldg. E, Mead, WA 99021, we have a station ready for you. Paper applications are also at every school office and the district office.
- After we process your application, you'll get an email with your approval/denial letter — keep it! It's your documentation for reduced or waived fees elsewhere.

Apply Online



mead.familyportal.cloud

Translated Applications



<https://mead.healtheliving.net/what-we-do/meal-applications/>

What This Means For You

- If you haven't been notified of meal benefits through direct certification, please complete an **Application** (QR code above or mead.familyportal.cloud → Apply for Benefits).
- Your application helps determine how much State and Federal funding your school receives.
- It may also qualify you for reduced/waived program fees, Chromebook insurance, and Summer EBT.
- Completing it will not affect your eligibility for no-cost meals.
- Have students in both a CEP/Provision 2 school and another school? Fill out an application to see if your other students qualify too.

DIRECT CERTIFICATION

If your child was directly certified for free/reduced meals by Washington State, and you already received a notification email or letter from us in August 2026, no application is needed.

Important: if other students in your household did NOT get a notification, please call Nutrition Services right away at 509-465-6100.

Students with free or reduced-price benefits are covered for **one full breakfast and one full lunch per school day**. This doesn't include à la carte items or milk purchased without a meal.

REDUCED OR WAIVED PROGRAM FEES

To receive reduced or waived school program fees, give written permission to share your student's free/reduced meal status. Keep your benefit notification letter from Nutrition Services and share a copy with your child's school, or fill out the attached Parental Release of Information Form and send it to our office.

Questions? We're happy to help — call **509-465-6100** or email nutrition@mead354.org.

Sincerely, Nutrition Services

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This letter is to communicate Mead School District's procedure for student meal accounts and meal account debt.

Online Payments

This is the most efficient way to put money on your student's account. Payments made online are posted to student meal accounts several times during the day. At this time, there is no service charge to your credit or debit card. Your student's meal account balance is listed on this website. If the balance is in (parenthesis) it signifies a negative balance. If you don't have a PowerSchool Parent Portal account, please call your child's school office to get an account set up.

Online payments are accepted at meadschools.powerschool.com.

Other Payments Accepted

Cash or personal check payments are also accepted at all school offices and are deposited by bookkeepers as they receive the payments.

Parental Control

At any time, parents/guardians may put purchasing limits on their children's meal accounts. Please contact our office at 509-465-6100 or nutrition@mead354.org for more details. We require parental control requests to be in writing.

Negative Meal Account Balances

- Any student requesting a breakfast or lunch will be allowed one regardless of account balance, unless there are parental controls prohibiting meal account purchases.
- Elementary: notification of account balances is only directed to parents/guardians.
- Middle & High School: notification to students of their account balance occurs if a student has a negative balance and wishes to purchase an ala carte item. Students may request their account balance at any time.
- Extra Purchases / Snack Items: snacks or extra items such as additional milk and extra entrees cannot be purchased if a student's account is negative. **Only 1 complete breakfast and 1 complete lunch per day are allowed to be charged.**
- Adults must keep their meal accounts positive. No purchases will be allowed that result in a negative balance.

Meal Account Balance Notifications

Notifications to parents/guardians are made twice weekly through email and through School Messenger when student balances are negative. In addition, principals or counselors may reach out when 5 or more meals are charged to your students account.

To ensure receipt of these notices please keep your contact information up-to-date. Contact your student's school with any contact information changes.

Meal Debt Payments

If at any time you are concerned about being able to pay for your child's meals, please contact Nutrition Services at nutrition@mead354.org or 509.465.6100. It is imperative at all grade levels that

parents/guardians keep meal account balances positive. **Parents/guardians are expected to pay delinquent debt when notified by the school district of the debt.**

Child Nutrition Eligibility & Education Benefit Application (CNEEB)

A new application is required yearly for benefits. This application may qualify you for: meal benefits, Summer EBT benefits, reduced fees for other programs and activities, and/or help secure funding for your school. If you receive a letter from the Nutrition Services office in August stating no application is needed for your child, then your child has been directly qualified through Washington State and no application is needed. If other children reside in your household and are not listed on the letter, please immediately contact the Nutrition Services office at 509.465.6100. The quickest way to apply is online at <https://mead.familyportal.cloud/>. Paper applications and translated applications are available at all schools and the Nutrition Services office. Applications are accepted at any time during the year.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

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The Mead School District does not discriminate in any programs on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups.



Parental Release of Information Form 2026-27 School Year

CONSENT TO SHARE PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION FOR OTHER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

If you qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on household size or income or, if you receive Basic Food, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Food Distribution on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or have been Directly Certified as eligible for free meals you may be eligible for decreased fees to participate in other school programs. Submitting/not submitting this form will not affect your child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals or Summer EBT benefits.

You must check the box for each program you would like to participate in and sign the form to allow your eligibility status to be shared for other program benefits.

Check to Participate (recommended to check all)	Title of School Program	How the shared information will be used
☐	ASB (fees for band, athletics, field trips, membership, etc.)	Waive fees as required by RCW 28A.325.210
☐	Chromebook Insurance	Reduce fees
☐	STEM Camps	Waive fees as required by RCW 28A.325.210

Student ID Number (if available)	Student Name	School	Grade

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

Please send completed form to Mead School District Nutrition Services, 12509 N. Market St. Bldg. E, Mead, WA 99021

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

Nutrition Services Office Use:

Free ☐

Reduced ☐

Initial & Date

National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program 2026-27 Letter to Households (Public Schools)

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Completing the Child Nutrition Eligibility & Education Benefit Application may qualify you for: free or reduced-price meals, SUN Bucks benefits, reduced fees for other programs and activities, and help secure funding for your school district. Breakfast and lunch will be served at no cost to those children who qualify for free and reduced-price meals in grades K-12. All other students will be charged the rates shown below.

REGULAR			
Grade Level	Breakfast	Lunch	Snack
K-5	\$ 1.85	\$ 2.95	\$ n/a
6-12	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.50	\$ n/a

Who should fill out an application?

Fill out the application if:

- Total household income is the SAME or LESS than the amount on the chart.
- You receive Basic Food, take part in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) for your children.
- You are applying for foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court.

Turn in the application to **Nutrition Services, 12509 N Market St., Bldg E, Mead, WA 99021** or your child's school.

Be sure to submit ONLY ONE application per household. We will notify you if the application is approved or denied. Foster, migrant, homeless, and runaway children, and children enrolled in a Head Start program are categorically eligible for free meals. If you are completing an application for these children, contact nutrition@mead354.org or 509-465-6100 for more information. Please note that a non-household member may be designated as the authorized representative for application processing purposes, if you have difficulty completing the application.

What counts as income? Who is considered a member of my household?

Look at the income chart below. Find your household size. Find your total household income. Households with incomes at or below the income limits may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals and SUN Bucks benefits. If members in the household are paid at different times during the month and you are unsure if your household is eligible, fill out an application and we will determine your income eligibility for you. The information provided on the application will be used to determine your child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals and SUN Bucks benefits.

Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals regardless of personal use income. If you have questions about applying for meal benefits for foster children, please contact us at nutrition@mead354.org or 509-465-6100.

USDA Child Nutrition Program Income Guidelines Effective July 1, 2026–June 30, 2027					
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$29,526	\$2,461	\$1,231	\$1,136	\$568
2	\$40,034	\$3,337	\$1,669	\$1,540	\$770
3	\$50,542	\$4,212	\$2,106	\$1,944	\$972
4	\$61,050	\$5,088	\$2,544	\$2,349	\$1,175
5	\$71,558	\$5,964	\$2,982	\$2,753	\$1,377
6	\$82,066	\$6,839	\$3,420	\$3,157	\$1,579
7	\$92,574	\$7,715	\$3,858	\$3,561	\$1,781
8	\$103,082	\$8,591	\$4,296	\$3,965	\$1,983
For each add'l family member, add:	\$10,508	\$876	\$438	\$405	\$203

HOUSEHOLD is defined as all persons, including parents, children, grandparents, and all people related or unrelated who live in your home and share living expenses. If applying for a household with a foster child, you may include the foster child in the total household size.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME is considered to be the income each household member received before taxes. This includes wages, social security, pension, unemployment, welfare, child support, alimony, and any other cash income. If including a foster child as part of the household, you must also include the foster child's personal income. Do not report foster payments as income.

What must be on the application?

A. For households not getting any assistance:

- Student name(s)
- Names of all household members
- Income by source for all household members
- Adult household member's signature
- Last 4 digits of social security number of the adult household member who signs the application (or if the adult signing does not have a social security number, check the associated box).

Complete *Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5; Part 6* is optional.

B. For households with only foster child(ren)

- Student's name
- Adult household member signature

Complete *Parts 1* and *5; Part 6* is optional. You may also send the school a copy of the court documentation showing the foster child(ren) was/were placed with you instead of filling out an application form.

Last 4 digits of SSN are not required for B.

**National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program
2026-27 Letter to Households (Public Schools)**

What must be on the application? *continued*

C. For a family getting Basic Food/TANF/FDPIR:

- List all student names
- Enter a case number
- Adult household member's signature

Complete *Parts 1, 2, 4, and 5*. *Part 6* is optional.

Last 4 digits of SSN are not required for C.

D. For household with a foster child(ren) and other children:

Apply as a household and include foster children. Follow the directions for “**A. For households not getting any assistance:**” and include the foster child’s personal use income.

All information provided on the application must be true and correct. By completing the application, your household attests that they do not receive SUN Bucks benefits through a different State or Indian Tribal Organization (if applicable), you recognize that this information is given in connection with the receipt of federal or state benefits and that school officials may verify (check) the information. **Purposely providing false information may result in your children losing these benefits, and you may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal criminal statutes.**

What if I’m not receiving basic food dollars?

If you have been approved for Basic Food but do not actually receive Basic Food dollars, you may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. You must apply for meal benefits by filling out a meal application and returning it to your child’s school.

Do my children automatically qualify if they have a case number?

Yes. Children on TANF or Basic Food may get free meals and children receiving some Medicaid benefits may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals without the household having to complete an application. These children are identified by the school using a data matching process. This matched list is then made available to your child’s school food service staff. The students on this list get free meals if their schools have the free and reduced-price breakfast and/or lunch program (not all schools do). Please contact us immediately if you feel your children should be receiving free meals and are not. If you do not want your child to participate in the free meal programs using this method, please notify the school.

If anyone in my household has a case number, will all children qualify for free meals?

Yes. If someone else in the household has a case number, other than a foster child, you must fill out an application and send it to your student’s school. Please contact us immediately if you feel other children in your household should be receiving free meals and are not.

Basic Food - Can I qualify for assistance in buying food?

Basic Food is the state’s food stamp program. It helps households make ends meet by providing monthly benefits to buy food. Getting Basic Food is easy! You can apply in person at the local DSHS Community Service Office, by mail, or online. There are other benefits too. You can learn about Basic Food by calling 1-877-501-2233 or by logging on to <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/community-services-offices/basic-food>.

We are in the military. Do we report our income differently?

Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.

My child’s application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out a new one?

Yes. Your child’s application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.

What if some household members have no income to report?

Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.

Health Coverage

To inquire about or apply for health care coverage for kids in your family, please visit <http://www.wahealthplanfinder.org> or you may call Washington Health Plan Finder at 1-855-923-4633.

What if my child needs special foods?

If your child needs special foods, contact the school/district food service office.

Proof of Eligibility

The information you provide may be verified at any time. You may be asked to send additional information to prove your child is eligible to receive free and reduced-price meals.

Fair Hearing

If you do not agree with the decision on your child's application or the process used to prove income eligibility, you may talk with Jared Hoadley, the fair hearing official. You have the right to a fair hearing which may be arranged by calling the school/school district at this number 509-465-6000.

**National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program
2026-27 Letter to Households (Public Schools)**

Reapplication

You may apply for benefits any time during the school year. If you should have a decrease in household income, an increase in household size, or become unemployed, or receive Basic Food, TANF, or FDPIR, you may be eligible for benefits and may fill out an application at that time.

USDA Non-Discrimination

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3. **email:**
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