



## **FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH FOR ALL STUDENTS**

Breakfast and Lunch are available AT NO COST for all students in the Tuxedo Union Free School District.

Students in the District will have access to FREE school meals starting on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a non-pricing meal service option for schools in low-income areas. This program allows school to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students without the requirement of collecting free and reduced-price meal applications.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)?**

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a program offered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for schools participating in the School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program that provides free meals to all students.

### **How does CEP impact my child/children?**

All students attending Tuxedo Union Free School District in person can receive one reimbursable breakfast and one reimbursable lunch per school day at no cost. This is a great cost savings to households by eliminating out-of-pocket expenses for food. Students will all have access to nutritious meals every day without the financial burden.

### **What is a reimbursable breakfast?**

A reimbursable breakfast consists of students taking at least three (3) food items from the breakfast components that are offered (grains, fruit and milk) and one (1) item must be a fruit.

### **What is a reimbursable lunch?**

A reimbursable lunch consists of students taking at least three (3) food components from the five (5) lunch components that are offered (vegetables, fruits, grains, meat/meat alternates and milk) and one (1) item must be a fruit or vegetable.

**What if my child doesn't take all the foods required to make a reimbursable breakfast or lunch?** Cafeteria staff will make students aware of the foods they need to add to make a reimbursable meal. If a student refuses to choose the food necessary to complete the meal, they will be charged a la carte prices.

### **What if my child brings their own lunch and would like just milk or fruit?**

CEP federal guidelines require students to pay for all food items that are not considered a reimbursable meal. Students who just want milk or fruit will need to pay a la carte prices for those items.

### **Can my child still purchase snacks or a second breakfast or lunch?**

Yes, students will still have the same opportunity to purchase a la carte items. Please make sure students have sufficient funds on their meal account or have money to pay as we are not allowed to charge those items as a negative balance.

Only the first breakfast and first lunch for each student are free. A second breakfast or second lunch would need to be purchased.

**How can I create a meal account or add funds to my child's meal account?**

If you would like to be able to access your child's meal account, please create an account at [www.lingconnect.com](http://www.lingconnect.com)

You can add funds to your child's account using the online payment portal or by sending in cash/check to the cafeteria to be added to the account. Please send cash or checks in an envelope and indicate that you want to deposit it onto your account.

**What can we do with the money currently on my child's account?**

Parents can request a refund from the cafeteria department at (845) 351-4786 x2004 or you can email our cafeteria consultant [maryanne.metzak@tuxedoschools.org](mailto:maryanne.metzak@tuxedoschools.org). Alternatively, the funds can be left on the student's account for a la carte items.

**What if there is negative debt left on my child's account?**

The free meal program is not retroactive and any negative debt incurred prior to December 1, 2023, will remain on the student's account until payment is received.

**What if my child has dietary restrictions?**

If your child has dietary restrictions, a medical statement needs to be submitted to the school nurse who will notify the cafeteria department. School staff will communicate with the family to provide the necessary food options.

**How do I view the menu for breakfast and lunch?**

The menus for the month are found on the school website by clicking on the lunch menu icon.

<https://www.tuxedoufsd.org/page/lunch-menu>

**How does my child get breakfast in school?**

Both GGM and GFB provide a breakfast program for students in the cafeteria before the start of school. Students just need to head to the cafeteria to select the breakfast of their choice and record their meal with the cafeteria staff. Preschool students are provided breakfast in the classroom.

**How does my child get lunch in school?**

Both GGM and GFB provide a lunch period for students in the cafeteria. Students will have the opportunity to select the lunch of their choice as they go through the serving line and will need to check out with the cafeteria staff at the point-of-sale register. Preschool students are provided lunch in the classroom.

**Can you tell me about school meals?**

School meal programs offer breakfast and lunch meals that meet strict federal nutrition standards that are aligned with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Our meals are planned with student preferences in mind, all while including foods that offer the right balance of vegetables, fruits, low fat or nonfat milk, whole grains and lean protein.

**Who prepares the breakfasts and lunches in school?**

Breakfast and lunch is prepared and served by our own team of food service employees. They are dedicated to our students' health and well-being. The team is led by Anthony Grassi, Chef Manager.

**Do I need to fill out an application for my child to receive meals at no cost?**

No, families do not need to fill out an application for their child to be eligible for free meals.

**Who can I contact with any questions or concerns?**

Please contact the Cafeteria Department at (845) 351-4786 x2004 or you can email our cafeteria consultant [maryanne.metzak@tuxedoschools.org](mailto:maryanne.metzak@tuxedoschools.org) with any questions or concerns.