

1) Are meals still free for ALL students this school year?

No. The federally-funded universal meal program that provided free school meals for the past two years has expired, and free breakfast and lunch are no longer be provided to all students.

2) My children qualify for Free/Reduced meals. Do I still have to pay for meals?

If you have completed the 2022-23 Free and Reduced lunch application and qualified for Free school meals, you **DO NOT** have to pay for breakfast or lunch. Students who qualified for Reduced meals will also receive free meals this year, as the state of New Jersey is picking up the remainder of that cost.

3) My child qualified through SNAP/TANF – do I have to pay for meals?

Families who qualified through SNAP/TANF do NOT have to pay for school meals.

4) Is it too late to fill out the application for Free and Reduced lunches?

No, applications are still being accepted. Visit the food services department online at <https://www.pemberton.k12.nj.us/Page/1305> to apply online or print a copy to fill out.

5) My child does not qualify for Free or Reduced lunches. How do I pay for meals?

Food Services accepts check, cash and money orders. Parents may also set up an account at www.myschoolbucks.com and use their credit card to pay for meals. There is a service fee associated with each deposit through MySchoolBucks.

Students may charge meals and their parents will be notified of their outstanding balance by the cashier.

6) Where can I find the school menus and prices?

All menus and prices are posted on the district website on the Food Services page at <https://www.pemberton.k12.nj.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=1300>. Click on the menus on the left side of the page to view the correct menu.

In addition, paper menus are sent home in grades Pre-K through 6th, and available in the main offices of grades 7 through 12.

School meals are healthy meals that are required to meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

School meal programs must meet strict federal nutrition standards. These standards, also referred to as “the meal pattern,” require schools to offer students the right balance of fruits, vegetables, low-fat or fat-free milk, whole grains and lean protein with every meal.