



September 12, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The USDA released a statement last week regarding free meals for students and then clarified further what that means for districts. The wonderful news we have to share is that this extension of the free meals program will allow the Chardon Local School District to offer **FREE breakfast and lunch to all interested students during school days**. The meals are **free regardless of financial status, and this program applies to all students - whether 100% virtual or in-person enrolled**. [\[NOTE: Information for 100% Virtual students is on Page 2.\]](#)

### **How does the Free Meals program work for In-Person Students?**

- **Effective Monday, September 14**, all in-person Chardon Schools students who choose on any given school day to have a school-provided breakfast and/or lunch from our Food Service Department - in any of our school buildings - **will receive the meal(s) at no cost through \*December 31, 2020**. Please note that students who prefer to bring their lunch from home on either some school days or all school days are still welcome to pack lunches.
- \*This end date could change at any time, based on funding from Congress. When funding is no longer available, the program could end sooner than expected.
- **Breakfast and lunch menus** for your child's school remain the same and continue to be available on your **school's web page** under the Food Service tab.
- **At the conclusion of the program, meal statuses will then return to their Regular Free, Reduced, or Paid rates**. Rates are determined based on information provided on the [Free and Reduced Meal Applications](#) that were communicated to families at the start of the school year.
- For families with meal funds currently in their children's MySchoolAccount, this money will be held in the account for your children to use after \*December 31, 2020 **or** when the FREE meal program ends.

### **Should I still complete a 2020-21 Free/Reduced application for each of my children?**

- Yes. Although under the current plan, all meals will be free of charge through \*December 31, 2020, if you have not yet completed and submitted your [Online Free/Reduced Application](#) OR [Hard Copy Free/Reduced Application](#) for the 2020-2021 school year, please do so as soon as possible to avoid any gap in benefits. This will make for a more seamless transition in January 2021.

[continued on next page]

- We encourage **all** Chardon Schools families to fill out an application at the start of each school year as all **approved** families will also have their children's **instructional fees waived** (this excludes athletics, extracurriculars, etc.).
- Additionally, regardless of whether your child will be using our food services at any point during the school year, **approved applications still generate funding for the broader Chardon Schools community by increasing access to Title 1 funding**, thereby providing an added benefit for all Chardon Schools students.

### **How does the Free Meals program work for 100% Virtual (Blue Model) Students?**

- **Effective Monday, September 14, all interested 100% Virtual (Blue Model) Chardon Schools students become **eligible** for the Free Meals program, which currently extends through \*December 31, 2020. This end date could change at any time, based on funding from Congress. When funding is no longer available, the program could end sooner than expected.**
- **The first distribution of meals (one-day distribution of 5 days worth of meals) for 100% Virtual students will be on Wednesday, September 23 with pre-registration for this date via [Google Form](#) required by 12:00p.m. on Thursday, September 17.**
- Distribution of meals to **pre-registered (by the week) families** will be held on the following Wednesday each week from **8:00a.m. – 8:30a.m.** at **Chardon High School - 151 Chardon Avenue.**
- **A reservation via Google Form is necessary to ensure your remote students receive their meals on distribution day.** The Google form can be accessed via the link above and is also available on the [district's Food Service page](#).
- **The Virtual Student Form needs to be submitted each week by Thursday at 12:00 p.m. for the following Wednesday meal pick-up.**
- Breakfast and lunch distribution for 100% virtual students will not follow the established menus on the school web pages.
- **Please note that if you arrive on a Wednesday at the distribution site without submission of the registration form the previous week, we will not have meals prepared for your student(s).** Your reservation each week enables us to know how many meals to prepare each week.

The Food Service Department appreciates your patience while we work through policy and government changes. Our primary goal remains providing your students with healthy, satisfying meals.

If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact my office at 440-286-0425 or [josephine.culliton@chardonschools.org](mailto:josephine.culliton@chardonschools.org).

Sincerely,

Josephine Culliton  
Director of Food Service