

Welcome to Gonzales ISD. We are pleased for you to participate in our meal program. Food Service plays a vital role in the educational process of our students. **OUR GOAL:** To meet the nutritional needs of students and staff at Gonzales ISD and to accomplish the financial objective set by the school district. Our primary goal is for students, staff and visitors to purchase delicious meals that are offered in clean, friendly environment.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: Gonzales ISD has a contract with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to participate in their National School Breakfast, Lunch Meals Program, After School Snacks and Summer Food Service Program or Seamless Summer Option.

The District has agreed to follow all USDA regulations in consideration for specified reimbursement towards the cost of all “meals” served to students. All students in Gonzales ISD (for 2022-2023) will receive FREE reimbursable meals. (A la carte items do not qualify for this program.) Note that violation of any USDA regulation can result in the District’s losing thousands of dollars.

QUESTIONS Following are some frequently asked questions. If you have additional questions, please contact us at 830-672-7508.

Q. Must parents apply for the Federal Meals Program every school year?

A. **NO.** Gonzales ISD is currently operating under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) which allows GISD to serve ALL students free breakfast and lunch meals without needing to take applications for free or reduced meals. As of 2022-2023, Gonzales ISD is in the 3rd year under a 4-year CEP agreement. If financially feasible after completing 4 years on CEP, Gonzales ISD may apply to continue on CEP for another 4 years.

Q. Are schools required to provide meals to students without money?

A. Under CEP all reimbursable breakfast and lunch reimbursable meals are FREE to all students so money is not required. If a student wants to purchase a second meal or a la carte items, students are required to pay for these items or have money in their accounts. Parents are encouraged to deposit funds for a la carte purchases (if school offers a la carte items) via MY SCHOOL BUCKS. Instructions on how to set up an account are found on the GISD Food Services home page. There is **NO CHARGING** for students.

Q. Why do adults pay more than students?

A. The District is reimbursed for some or all the cost of each meal served to an enrolled student. USDA does not reimburse a district for adult/visitor meals; therefore, they must pay a higher price to help cover the cost. In addition, the District does not receive commodity assistance for meals served to adults. District Staff (not substitute staff) are allowed to charge if they have a signed payroll deduction form for the current school year. Staff charges will be billed in January (for August – December) and May (for January – May). Any staff leaving during the school year will be billed for any charges on their last check.

Q. What are the meal prices for the 2022/2023 school year? A. Students breakfast and lunch meals are free under CEP. Adult Staff Lunch as of Spring 2022 is \$4.15. Adult Staff Breakfast as of Spring 2022 is \$2.75. Visitor meals (adult or child visitors) are the same prices for as Adult Staff Meals. As of Spring 2022 Visitor Holiday Meals are \$6.00. **We anticipate price changes for 2022-2023. Pricing is updated annually and shown in the Meal Prices section on the Food Services page.**