



SCHOOL NUTRITION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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 Meals Program. 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 the Gonzales ISD **participate** – not just students who qualify for free or reduced-priced 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. Yes. USDA allows students who qualified for free or reduced-priced meals last school year to carry over that eligibility for the 1st 30 calendar days (“grace period”) of the new school year. Parents are encouraged to complete a new application at the beginning of the school year, to allow time for the new application to be processed before the end of the 30-day “grace period”. (Once the Food Service Office has received the application, it takes up to 2 weeks to process the application.) After the 30 day – “grace period” and if the application has not been processed, the students must either bring lunch money or lunch from home. USDA requires that a new application be completed when a student moves into a new district. **(1 application per family).**

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

A. No. If there is a financial need, parents are encouraged to complete an application to determine the eligibility for free or reduced-priced meals. Gonzales ISD does maintain the following privilege for students and faculty wishing to charge a meal. (A la carte items do not count.) Contact with the household is attempted when students have reached their charge limit and privileges will be discontinued. Students no longer allowed the charge privilege receive an alternate meal of peanut butter or cheese sandwich and milk. **Charging policy allows student to charge 3 meals before receiving alternate meal.**

Q. Will students be responsible for payment of charges prior to Free or Reduced-Application approval?

A. Yes. Eligibility is not retroactive. Meals are claimed for reimbursement based on a student’s eligibility the day the meal is received.

Q. How long will it take for my child/ren’s application to be approved and how will I know if has been approved?

A. Once the completed application is received in the Food Service Office, households must allow up to 10 operating days for the application to be processed. Once an application has been processed, the household will receive a letter. The letter will state the approval/denial status of benefits. Students are responsible for payment of meals and/or charges prior to approval of benefits.

Q. Why do adults pay more than students?

A. The District is reimbursed **for a portion of 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.

Q. What are the meal prices for the 2015/2016 school year?

A. Meals are priced as a reimbursable unit, all necessary components must be present or a la carte prices will be charged. **Breakfast is Free to students only. Adult staff breakfast is \$1.25 and Visitor Breakfast is \$1.30. Elementary Lunch \$2.05, Secondary Lunch \$2.30, Adult Staff Lunch \$3.20 and Visitor Meals \$3.25. Milk is \$0.50 when purchased separate from the reimbursable meal.**