

School Nutrition Program Operational Changes for the 2022-2023 School Year

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided waivers to allow all children to eat at no cost through the USDA Seamless Summer Option (SSO) program. Since April 2020, children throughout the United States have been able to eat meals at school at no cost to them. However, USDA no longer has the authority to grant such waivers, and as such, school meal service will resume through the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program, operating as it did prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020. The National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program follow different federal regulations than the Seamless Summer Option.

The differences we are expected to see, but may not be limited to, for the upcoming school year are listed below.

1. Meals shall no longer be provided at no cost to all students. Students may receive meals at no cost if they are Directly Certified or qualify through a household income application.
 - Additionally, household income applications may be used for other funding sources in your district. Benefits of completed income applications include:
 - ✓ Increased funding to support student education, technology, and internet access
 - ✓ Discounts for fees associated with college application process
 - ✓ Scholarship opportunities and discounted fees for SAT, ACT and AP tests
2. Students must be enrolled in a school to receive school meals. Students attending virtual classes are not eligible to participate in either of the federal meal programs.
3. Meals shall only be provided and served on days when school is in session.

****The cost of lunch in Obion County Schools for the 2022-2023 school year will be \$2.00 for elementary school, and \$2.25 for middle and high school.***

****Breakfast will be free to all students in the 2022-2023 school year.***