

Response Received from MCPS Administration

Federal regulations allow meal service on virtual learning days. Since it is a school day, meals are provided based on student eligibility (free, reduced, or paid), as for a traditional school day. Meals are only reimbursed in this scenario when provided to students at their home school.

For Montgomery County Public Schools to fund meal distribution to all students during a virtual learning day, it would cost approximately \$525,000. This cost estimate is based on the meal distribution conducted on January 23, 2026, prior to the anticipated weather event. There were 178,550 meals provided. Meals that were eligible for federal reimbursement were claimed and the Department of Food and Nutrition Services received \$281,113.93. Meals that were ineligible for federal reimbursement cost \$505,046.88. The \$525,000 reflects the anticipated increase in prices in Fiscal Year 2027.