

MEMORANDUM

August 14, 2025

Action Required - ANNUAL



Division of District Operations
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

TO: All Principals
FROM: Adnan Mamoon, Chief Operations Officer *AM*
SUBJECT: ***Food and Nutrition Services Program Updates for School Year 2026***

Bottom Line Up Front

This memo provides updates for the 2025–2026 school year from the Department of Food and Nutrition Services (DFNS) about menus and special dietary needs, meal service accountability, and guidelines for CEP and Non-CEP Schools.

Menus and Special Dietary Needs

Menus, including nutrition and allergen information, can be viewed on the [DFNS website](#) through [MealViewer](#). [MCPS Form 240-23, Special Dietary Needs Form](#), may be used to request meal accommodations for students eating school meals.

Student Meal Identification

All students will use their Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) student identification number for meal accountability. All points of service (POS) in the cafeteria will have barcode scanners and PIN pads. DFNS will provide barcoded cards for elementary school students for use at the POS. Schools will receive cards for newly enrolled students only. Damaged or lost cards should be replaced during the year through a request to the cafeteria manager.

Meal Service Accountability Training

Breakfast and lunch meals provided in the classroom require school staff to be trained and to take meal service accountability. Afterschool snack and supper meals may require school staff to be trained, and to take meal service accountability. DFNS will provide training for applicable staff.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools	MCPS will continue to provide free breakfast and lunch at 60 schools through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).
Non-Community Eligibility Provision (Non-CEP) Schools	DFNS utilizes a multi-layered approach to ensure every student who may qualify for Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMS) is determined as eligible annually. Our goal is to capture all eligible students using direct certification, FARM applications, and direct outreach from DFNS and schools.
	There are no changes in meal prices this school year, and students who qualify for reduced-price meals will continue to receive meals at no cost. Breakfast: \$1.30 (All levels), Lunch: \$2.55 (Elementary), \$2.80 (Middle and High)
	Funds can be added to student meal accounts at no charge by bringing cash, check, or money order directly to school cafeteria managers. Payments to student meal accounts can be made through www.MySchoolBucks.com .
	Parents/guardians are responsible for school cafeteria account balances incurred by their student(s), and MCPS must collect unpaid school cafeteria charges. The Meal Payment Procedures , details payment responsibilities and school-based and DFNS communication to parents/guardians.

Action Required

- **All Schools:** Communicate menus and the Special Dietary Needs Form with families using applicable communication methods (handbooks, newsletters, ParentSquare, PTA notifications, school website, etc.). Please see Attachment A - Sample Food & Nutrition Language.
- **Schools with In-Classroom Meals, Snack, or Supper:** Ensure all school staff taking Maryland Meals For Achievement (MMFA) In-Classroom breakfast meal accountability have completed [Annual MMFA Training](#). Additional program training information is forthcoming.
- **Non-CEP Schools:** Promote annual household submission of FARM applications with families using applicable communication methods as noted above. Ensure all households that may be eligible have completed the FARM application **before October 9, 2025**. Please see Attachment A.

Additional Information

- For any questions, please contact Elizabeth (Liz) Leach, director, DFNS, at 240-740-7400 or via [email](#).
- Attachment A—Sample Food & Nutrition Language

2025-2026 Sample Food and Nutrition Language

Please use the following sample verbiage to share information with households through handbooks, Back-to-School newsletters, ParentSquare, PTA notifications, and posted on school websites.

Menus and Special Dietary Needs

Menus, including nutrition and allergen information, can be viewed on the [DFNS website](#) through [MealViewer](#). [MCPS Form 240-23, Special Dietary Needs Form](#), may be used to request meal accommodations for students eating in the cafeteria.

Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMS) for CEP Schools ([List of CEP Schools](#))

Montgomery County Public Schools will continue to provide free breakfast and lunch this year through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Please encourage students to join us for breakfast and lunch at school.

Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMS) Applications for Non-CEP Schools



**APPLY
HERE!**

[Apply online](#) NOW so students receive free meals on the first day of school!

Households meeting federal income standards are eligible for free school meals, and students who qualify for reduced-price meals will continue to receive meals at no cost. To receive this benefit, a **new FARMS application must be completed every school year**. Please submit the online FARMS application through www.MySchoolApps.com. Only one application is needed for all students in a household.

Meal Prices, Payment Policy, and Procedures for Non-CEP Schools

There are **no changes** in meal prices this school year. Funds can be added to student meal accounts at no charge by bringing cash, check, or money order directly to school cafeteria managers. Payments to student meal accounts can be made through www.MySchoolBucks.com.

Breakfast: \$1.30 (All levels), **Lunch:** \$2.55 (Elementary), \$2.80 (Middle and High)

Parents/guardians are responsible for school cafeteria account balances incurred by their student(s), and MCPS must collect unpaid school cafeteria charges. The [Meal Payment Policy](#) details payment responsibilities.



For more FARMS information and How-To videos, visit the [Department of Food and Nutrition Services \(DFNS\) website](#)

**MORE INFO
HOW-TO VIDEOS**