

Johnston Community School District Child Nutrition Program

The Johnston Community School District recognizes the important connection between a healthy diet and student's ability to learn. To help ensure students receive proper nutrition to fuel their minds and bodies, the nutrition department maintains high standards set by the federal government regarding food safety and nutrition. Now is a great time to encourage students to choose a healthy lunch or breakfast at school. Breakfast is served each day at elementary Schools at 8:25am and secondary Schools at 7:15am.

School meals planned using the following standards:

- ✓ Age-appropriate calorie, sodium and saturated fat limits/0 trans fats
- ✓ Variety of fruits and vegetables including Farm to School fresh options
- ✓ Wide range of vegetables (including dark green, red/orange, and legumes)
- ✓ Grain items contain least 51% whole-grain rich flours.
- ✓ Canned fruit packed in natural juice or light syrup.
- ✓ Yogurt or other vegetarian entrees offered daily.
- ✓ Low fat and skim milk offered daily by Anderson Erickson Dairy.
- ✓ All foods sold to kids before, during and 30 minutes after school are compliant with USDA/Alliance for a Healthier Generation Smart Snacks Guidelines including ala carte, vending and fundraising.
- ✓ Students are required to select a serving of fruit and/or vegetable with lunch & breakfast meals.



Special Menus / Substitutions:

Substitutions for specific foods allowed when supported by a statement from a recognized medical authority. If a student requires a specific food substitution, such as in the case of a **food allergy**, a Diet Modification Request Form completed by a medical professional is required. These forms are available www.johnstoncsd.org/departments/nutrition-services/special-diets. Updated forms submitted annually to the Director of Nutrition Services and the School Nurse.

Payment for school meals:


Each student has a computerized meal account. Parents prepay money into a student's meal account. The computer debits and records the purchases from the student's meal account. To keep meal prices reasonable, student accounts are monitored to prevent negative balances and charges. Here are some services provided to parents to ensure there are adequate funds for meals:

- ✓ Online payments can be made at www.paypams.com. Parents can monitor student accounts from home and set-up automatic payments.
- ✓ Negative balance notifications are emailed to families 2 times per week.
- ✓ Parents may allow students to purchase extra milk at the elementary schools or ala carte items at secondary schools if funds are available. Students may not be able to purchase ala carte items, extra milk or second meals if there are no funds available in the account.

2023/2024 Prices		
	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>
Elementary	\$1.85	\$2.90
Secondary	\$2.00	\$3.00
Adult	\$2.40	\$4.85
Extras:		
Milk	\$.50	
Fruit/Veggie	\$.75	
Bread/Dessert	\$.75	
Cookie	\$.75	
Entrée	\$2.60	

Free and Reduced Prices Meals are available to qualifying families:

An Iowa Application for Free and Reduced Priced school meals can be completed online at the www.johnstoncsd.org/departments/nutrition-services/free-reduced-meal-program select online application. To request a paper Iowa Application for Free and Reduced Priced school meals - please call the JCSD Nutrition Department at 515-278-0278.

School Lunch Menus and nutritional information is available at www.johnstoncsd.org Quick Links - Nutrislice  or meal menus at the bottom of the page. Contact the JCSD Nutrition Department 515-278-0278 with questions.

We look forward to welcoming your children to the cafeteria.

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NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Series 700

POLICY TITLE MEAL CHARGES No. 710.4

In accordance with state and federal law, the Johnston Community School District adopts the following policy to ensure school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. The policy seeks to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day, prevent the overt identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals, and maintain the financial integrity of the nonprofit school nutrition program.

Payment of Meals

Each student is assigned a computerized meal account. Parents/Guardians pre-pay into a student's meal account by sending a check to the child's school, district office or paying on-line with debit/credit at the district website. During meal service, students enter a personal pin number or scan an ID Badge (if applicable) at the cash register. The computer debits and records purchases from the student's lunch account. The nutrition department closely monitors student accounts to prevent negative balances and charges.

Free/Reduced Priced Meals

Free and reduced priced meals are available to those families who qualify. Information regarding free or reduced priced meals will be provided at least twice annually to the parents or guardians of all enrolled students. Students who qualify for free meals shall never be denied a reimbursable meal, even if they have accrued a negative balance from previous purchases. Schools are encouraged to provide a reimbursable meal to students with outstanding meal charge debt.

Negative Account Balances

The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify families when meal account balances are low. However, the failure of the school district to notify families shall not relieve families' obligations to keep meal account balances current; nor shall it prevent the school district from being able to take all actions legally available to collect any delinquent account balances. If a student account balance is zero or negative they will be allowed to charge full meals only. Extra entrees, milk or ala carte items will not be allowed unless payment is made. When the student account balance reaches -\$10.00 or more negative, notification by phone call, email or letter will be sent to the parent or guardian at least 1 time per week. Additionally, the school district will make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. Negative balances of more than \$50.00 not paid prior to the end of the school year will be turned over to the Director of Nutrition Services or designee for collection. Options may include: collection agencies, small claims court, or any other legal method permitted by law. Employees are not allowed to charge meals or ala carte items.

Unpaid Student Meals Account

The district will establish an unpaid student meals account in a school nutrition fund. Funds from private sources and funds from the district flexibility account may be deposited into the unpaid school meals account in accordance with law. Funds deposited into this account shall be used only to pay individual student meal debt.

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Communication of the Policy

The policy and supporting information regarding meal charges shall be provided in writing to:

- All households at or before the start of each school year;
- Students and families who transfer into the district, at time of transfer; and
- All staff responsible for enforcing any aspect of the policy.

Records of how and when the policy and supporting information was communicated to households and staff will be retained.

The Director of Nutrition Services or designee may develop an administrative process to implement this policy.

Legal Reference: 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751 et seq. 7 C.F.R. §§ 210 et seq. U.S. Dep't of Agric., SP 46-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies (2016). U.S. Dep't of Agric., SP 47-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments (2016). U.S. Dep't of Agric., SP 57-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance and Q&A (2016). Iowa Code 283A. 281 I.A.C. 58.

Cross Reference: 710.1 School Food Program
 710.2 Free or Reduced Cost Meals Eligibility
 710.3 Vending Machine

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