

BACK TO SCHOOL



We want to help your child eat healthy meals at school. We invite all students to dine with us daily. We offer delicious and nutritious meals that provide “fuel for learning” that students need to make the most of their school experience. Meals offered daily meet or exceed the federal, state and local dietary guidelines set by the USDA that are both wholesome and of high quality. All meals / food is served in an efficient, friendly manner, in a respectful environment that gives the students time to sit, relax, and enjoy their meal before returning to their daily tasks of the school day. We look forward to welcoming your child(ren) to the cafeteria. We’re all set for a new school year of great food and outstanding service. Now is the perfect time to encourage your child(ren) to choose school meals!

Don't forget about Breakfast: Breakfast is available to both Pine Ridge and Ferdinand Elementary students at 7:30 a.m. each school day (unless school is on a 2 hour delay - - - on those days, breakfast is not available). Breakfast is a great way to kick off your child(ren)'s school day! School Breakfast will give your child(ren) more energy, keep their body healthy, and help improve their school day.

The “Recipe” for students to perform better in their classrooms and succeed at school is to provide them with the nutrition necessary for healthy growth of their minds and bodies. Growing minds need fuel to remain focused and open to learning. When children eat a healthy, well-balanced diet, studies have shown that they enjoy the benefits of improved attentiveness and cognition, plus they have more energy to perform at their best. Well-nourished students have higher test scores, increased school attendance, improved concentration, and better classroom behavior. Students who are physically fit, sleep better and are better able to handle the physical and emotional challenges that they encounter during the day. In accordance with the meal pattern requirements established by the USDA, a variety of appealing, delicious and nutritious meals and food items are offered daily in a courteous and friendly manner, within a safe and pleasant environment, to help provide the “fuel for learning” that students need to contribute to their academic success and overall well-being.

National School Lunch Program

The Nutrition & Food Services Program of the Southeast Dubois County School Corporation participates in the National School Lunch Program, which is a federally funded meal program administered by the USDA. The program assists in providing nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free meals to students each school day. The regulations and guidelines governing the school meal program are not set locally, but are set by the United States Department of Agriculture. The meal pattern requirement includes certain serving sizes of 5 meal components:

Milk	8 ozs.	Fat free or Low-fat
Protein	1-2 ozs. per day with a weekly requirement	Meat, fish, poultry, cheese (Breakfast combines protein and bread/grain, may serve either or both)
Bread or Grain	1-2 ozs. per day with a weekly requirement	Must be at least 51% whole grain to be counted.
Vegetable	1/2 to 1 cup per day depending on grade level	Requirements include the types of vegetables served. Red/Orange, Dark Green, Starchy, Peas, Beans, or Legumes. Must be served each week at correct serving sizes.
Fruits	1/2 to 1 cup per day depending on grade level	Not more than ½ can be juice.

Offer Vs. Serve

In an effort to increase the acceptance and consumption of nutritious foods, "offer versus serve" (OVS) is implemented in each of our cafeterias. Students have food choices available which encourage them to select a meal that is more specific to their food preferences. OVS allows students to decline some of the food items offered in a reimbursable lunch or breakfast. The goals of OVS are to increase customer satisfaction and reduce food waste by permitting students to choose the foods they want to eat. To have a qualifying lunch, a student must select at least three full portions of the five meal components offered that day, or they may select ALL five meal components. To have a qualifying breakfast, a student must select three full portions of the four meal components offered that day. If a student takes fewer than the minimum number of required meal components, they must pay a la carte prices for each food item they selected. With OVS, students are able to select the milk of their choice, and also have an option of no milk, as long as at least 3 food components are selected. **USDA Meal Pattern does require each student to have a 1/2 cup fruit and / or vegetable with their lunch each day; therefore each student MUST select a 1/2 cup fruit and / or vegetable each day for both lunch and breakfast.**

The 5 Components of a School Lunch

Offer Vs. Serve
Choose 1/2 cup fruit, or 1/2 cup vegetable, or 1/2 cup combination, and at least 2 other components. Choose all 5 for the best nutrition!

What Makes a School Breakfast

Offer Vs. Serve
Choose at least 3 items from the four offered, One must be a 1/2 cup of fruit (or vegetable).
The fourth item offered may be another grain, another fruit or veggie, or a meat or meat alternate.

All guidelines established by the USDA must be followed daily, including making sure that students get an exact serving size of each of their meal items, no more, no less. The portion size that the students receive is aligned to their age group calorie needs to avoid excess calories.

NUTRITION STANDARDS

The federal nutrition standards for school lunches require a minimum daily intake of:

GRADES K-8	1/2 CUP of fruit	3/4 CUP of vegetables	AT LEAST 1 additional vegetable	1 OUNCE of grains	1 OUNCE of meat	1 CUP of milk
GRADES 9-12	1 CUP of fruit	1 CUP of vegetables	AT LEAST 1 additional vegetable	2 OUNCES of grains	2 OUNCES of meat	1 CUP of milk

CALORIE COUNTS

Daily amount based on the average for a five-day week:

	GRADES K-5	GRADES 6-8	GRADES 9-12
Min.-max. calories kcal	550-650	600-700	750-850
Saturated fat % of total calories	< 10	< 10	< 10
Sodium mg	≤ 640	≤ 710	≤ 740
Trans fat	Nutrition label or manufacturer specifications must indicate zero grams of trans fat per serving.		

SOURCES: GRAPEVINE-COLLEYVILLE ISD, NATIONAL LUNCH PROGRAM/COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER

School Year 2018-2019 Meal Prices

	Breakfast	Lunch
Free-Student	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reduced Price – Student	\$0.30	\$0.40
Paid-Junior/Senior High Student	N / A	\$2.20
Paid- Elementary Student	\$1.35	\$2.05
Adult	\$3.00	\$3.50
Extra Milk	\$0.50	\$0.50

Prices for the 2018-2019 school year were increased in compliance with the Equity in School Lunch Pricing Provision of the Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act of 2010. To ensure that federal funds received for free and reduced price meals are not diverted to cover meal cost of the students who do not qualify for meal assistance or those of adult meals. All meals and ala carte items are reasonably priced to encourage participation while maintaining a self-supporting operation. The operation of the Nutrition & Food Services Program is required to be conducted in a fiscally responsible and self-supporting manner.

All schools that participate in the NSLP, must make free and reduced priced meals available to eligible students; annually, households are offered the opportunity to apply for federal assistance, which may result in free or reduced priced school meals. Free and Reduced Price Meals are available to families who believe they may qualify based on income guidelines determined by the federal government each year. If a household chooses to apply, they must complete a "2018-2019 Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals". Application forms will be available to all households as part of their back to school registration paperwork. In addition, applications are also available at all school offices upon request (812-817-0900), or households may print an application from the "Food Service Forms" found on the Southeast Dubois County School Corporation website (www.sedubois.k12.in.us) for the 2018-2019 school year beginning mid-July 2018. We are unable to accept applications by phone, fax or scanned email. All applications must be submitted on an official paper application.

To avoid incurring an interruption of benefits, a new application **MUST** be completed and submitted each school year. Federal regulations require that a new application must be completed, approved and on file each school year to receive meal benefits and textbook assistance. Benefits from the previous school year do carryover for the first 30 school days of a new school year for meals, but there is no grace period for textbook assistance. All carryover benefits will expire on **SEPTEMBER 20, 2018**. Students who do not have a current / new application on file by September 20, 2018 will be required to pay full price for all meals until a new application is submitted and approved.

Important: The textbook assistance box **MUST** be checked **YES**, plus the applicant **MUST** also sign their name, in order to receive textbook assistance. If applying for both textbook assistance and free/reduced meals, two signatures are required.

Only **ONE** application is all that needs to be submitted for each household. All applications **MUST** be completed correctly with **ALL** required information before they can be processed (be sure to include everyone in your household, and all **GROSS** income). Free and reduced meals cannot be provided until an application has been officially approved. If any information is missing, the application will be returned to the applicant for the application to be completed correctly, and then resubmitted for processing. You will be notified by either mail or email of your child(ren)'s eligibility for free or reduced-priced meals. Until you receive notification, you must provide your child(ren) with a lunch or lunch money --- your child(ren) will pay full price for meals until their application has been approved. A household may apply of benefits at any time during the school year. Note: For any child(ren) in a household who might be Migrant, Homeless, or Runaway, contact the school's homeless liaison, Mr. Richard "Rick" Allen at rick.allen@sedubois.k12.in.us or 812-817-0900 then press "5" for the Superintendent's Office.

Factors considered in the application process are **TOTAL** household size and **TOTAL** household **GROSS** income. Household size is the total number of **ALL** persons (either related or unrelated) who live in your house and share living expenses, including each parent, all children, grandparents, all other relatives, and all other unrelated people, etc. living in the household. **NOTE:** A household is defined as a group of related or unrelated individuals who are living in the same household, and whose members share housing, significant income, and expenses such as rent, utilities, and food. Each household **MUST** provide the total amount of current gross income being earned by each member of the household, plus indicate how often the money is being received – weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly.

The GROSS income is before taxes (**NOT YOUR TAKE-HOME PAY**) is ALL income received by each household member including wages, social security, pension, unemployment, welfare, child support, alimony, and any other cash income during the last month.

It is important to remember that every application is required to be signed by the adult submitting the application, and **MUST** include the last four digits of that adult's Social Security Number (or mark the box it s/he doesn't have one). Incomplete applications cannot be processed! Applications will be reviewed on a timely basis; however, it may take 10 school days for an application to be reviewed and approved. *IMPORTANT NOTE: Other programs may require separate proof of your meal status qualification. Be sure to keep your letter indicating your free or reduced price school meal eligibility.* It is important that you save your notification letter.

In order to maintain the integrity of the Child Nutrition Program, the Federal guidelines require the Nutrition & Food Services Program to annually conduct verification of Free and Reduced Priced Meal / textbook benefit applications for accuracy. Anyone selected for verification who does not respond with the required information and income documentation within the specified time period, will have their child(ren)'s benefit(s) cancelled, which will make parents responsible for all meals and textbooks for the school year. This helps ensure that households do not falsely represent their income and living situations.

Those who qualify for either Free or Reduced meals are requested to complete and return the "Request Form for Sharing Information With Other Programs" form. This will allow the school to release information that shows a child(ren) is receiving free or reduced priced benefits under the NSLP. Therefore annually, the option is available to sign and return a "Request Form for Sharing Information With Other Programs" form to provide the necessary consent to release information contained in your student's free and reduced price school meal application for other types of assistance through various school and community programs. (All information from Free and Reduced Priced Meal Applications is confidential, and cannot be shared without the applicant's written consent.)

Procedures for Student Lunch/Meal Accounts

As mandated from the USDA, schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must have administrative guidelines and procedures for all meal charges. The Charge Procedure for the Southeast Dubois County School Corporation can be found in each student handbook, posted online on the corporation website (sedubois.k12.in.us), and on each school's individual website under the section of "Lunch Menus" (along with other useful and helpful information).

Prepaying money into their child(ren)'s meal account helps eliminate parent worry of lost money, and also ensures that money is always available in the meal account. The Southeast Dubois County School Corporation utilizes a pre-pay meal system. Your student's meal account is designed to be a prepaid account, and it operates as a Debit System, meaning money should be placed in your student's meal account prior to the days your child(ren) intends to make meal purchases. The student may use money from their account to purchase meals as well as a la carte items. We continue to use the Harmony based point of service program, which allows parents online access to check student meal account balances, view their child(ren)'s food purchases, make credit card payments (there is a nominal convenience fee of \$2 per lunch transaction.), and view all school menus. Parents are encouraged to receive low balance reminders from Harmony Family Access by setting up a "Push Notification" in each of their child(ren)'s account(s). The meal program is NOT a charge system --- it is a debit system. It is every family's responsibility to always carry a positive balance in their child(ren)'s meal account(s).

Sharing the Message of Wellness

Educating, Empowering and Inspiring Excellence.....

The Southeast Dubois County School Corporation strives to **educate** students as well as their families about the National School Lunch Program nutrition requirements and how nutrition affects learning.

- The Southeast Dubois County School Corporation **empowers** students through this education to make good choices when it comes to their meals and to understand that they have the ability to CHOOSE healthy options.
- The Southeast Dubois County School Corporation **inspires excellence** by challenging students of all ages to embrace a healthy lifestyle and to recognize that there is an important connection between eating nutritious meals and increasing their ability to learn.
- The Southeast Dubois County School Corporation is dedicated to ensure that all children regardless of economic status, cultural diversity or special needs have access to healthy meals to promote learning readiness through the following measures:
 - Meeting student preferences
 - Providing healthy choices

- Complying with federal program regulations
- Ensuring only quality products are purchased per specifications
- Operating under fiscally sound principles
- Offering reasonable prices
- Meeting or exceeding food safety standards

The Southeast Dubois School Corporation recognizes the important relationship of nutritional integrity, physical activity and good health to student academic performance; and is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting wellness, good nutrition and regular activity as part of the total learning environment. Improved health increases student performance potential. We hope to facilitate student learning about nutrition through healthy food selection at meal times, along with nutrition education, to enhance their growth and learning today, and promote good health in the future. Our schools support their students learning and contribute to their health by supporting and promoting good nutrition, healthy eating, physical activity, and healthy habits for lifelong nutrition and fitness practices. Dedicated to the wellness of its stakeholders, an active Wellness Committee comprised of teachers / school staff, students, parents, administrators, community members, school board members, and the district school nurse, have developed and continue to maintain a Wellness Policy that is focused on improving the health and wellbeing of all its students and staff members. Each school year, there is a review process of the Wellness Policy in order to implement and amend the policy to continually encourage the choice to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The School health Index is used as a self-assessment and planning-guide. Family and community stakeholders participation in review and implementation of the Wellness Policy is always welcome. Anyone having an interest in wellness issues impacting Southeast Dubois County School Corporation students may contact any of the schools. It takes a community-wide effort to ensure positive student outcomes.

Special meal Accommodations

A Special Meal Accommodation form known as a "Physician Letter for Students with a Disability" prescription MUST be filled out by a physician and sent to the food service office for processing before items can be substituted or eliminated from a child's diet. A food intolerance or an allergy that does not cause anaphylaxis does not meet the definition of a disability. If a prescription from a recognized medical authority is not received, your child(ren) will receive a regular lunch. Medical statements completed by parents or guardians will not be accepted.

Our School Meal Program wishes you and your children a healthy and productive year!

Nutritionally Yours.....Nutrition and Food Services

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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