

DISTRICT 11 FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES ANNOUNCES NO-COST MEALS FOR ALL STUDENTS

For the 2026-2027 School Year, Colorado Springs School District 11 Food and Nutrition Services will provide no-cost Lunch and Breakfast, at schools that serve breakfast, for all students. Achieve Online, Adams ES, Audubon ES, Bristol ES, Buena Vista ES, Carver ES, CIVA HS, Columbia ES, Coronado HS, Digital HS, Doherty HS, Edison ES, Fremont ES, Galileo MS, Grant ES, Henry ES, Holmes MS, Jackson ES, Jenkins MS, Keller ES, King ES, Madison ES, Mann MS, Martinez ES, McAuliffe Midland ES, Mitchell HS, Monroe ES, North MS, Odyssey Early College and Career Options, Palmer HS, Penrose ES, Queen Palmer ES, Rogers ES, Roosevelt ES, Rudy ES, Russell MS, Sabin MS, Scott ES, Steele ES, Stratton ES, Swigert MS, Taylor ES, Tesla Educational Opportunity School, Trailblazer ES, Twain ES, West Campus and Wilson ES will participate in the Community Eligibility Provision.

Students who are not hungry perform better in school. By providing Lunch and Breakfast, at schools that serve breakfast to all students at schools participating in the National School Lunch Program, we better support their learning.

It is important for households to still provide income information when requested. While meals will be provided at no cost to all students in participating schools, Colorado Springs School District 11 must continue to gather this information to receive full access to state and federal funding. Additional funds go directly to schools to help cover the cost of meals, after-school activities and other nutritional programs for students. **Plus, qualifying households may be eligible for Summer EBT benefits and to receive discounted school fees, class materials, bus passes, utilities support, and more.**

The following contains more information on eligibility determination for free and reduced-price meals. Please note that, while the following pages may reference eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals, providing Lunch and Breakfast, at schools that serve breakfast, **will be provided free to all students participating in the National School Lunch Program in the 2026-27 School Year regardless of household income.**

Colorado Springs School District 11 Food and Nutrition Services announced its policy for determining eligibility of students who meet federal free and reduced-price school meal guidelines served under the National School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast Programs (SBP) and the Afterschool Care Snack Program. Local school officials will use the following household size and income criteria for determining eligibility.

Household Size	Free Guidelines – Annual Income	Reduced-Price Guidelines – Annual Income
1	\$20,748	\$29,526
2	\$28,132	\$40,034
3	\$35,516	\$50,542
4	\$42,900	\$61,050
5	\$50,284	\$71,558
6	\$57,668	\$82,066
7	\$65,052	\$92,574
8	\$72,436	\$103,082
For each additional person:	\$7,384	\$10,508

Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

The school meals that Colorado Springs School District 11 Food and Nutrition Services serves follow U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for healthy school meals.

For information on where to find an application and how to apply, please read the attached letter.

Applications for free and reduced-price school meals, instructions and an informational letter to households are available at the D11 Food and Nutrition Services office, a limited number of applications are available at all D11 schools and online at <https://lingconnect.com/public/meal-application/new?identifier=JX9G3Q>. Only one application is required for all students in the household. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for determining eligibility and verifying data.

Applications from households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) benefits or Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF/Colorado Works, Basic Cash Assistance or State Diversion) benefits need to provide the respective case number and the signature of an adult household member. Eligibility for free school meals is extended to all students in the household when the application provides a case number for any household member.

Households that qualify based upon income must provide the names of all household members related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives or friends), the amount of gross income each household member receives, the frequency and source of pay, the signature of an adult household member and the last four digits of that adult household member's Social Security number—or check the box if the adult household member does not have a social security number. Colorado Springs School District 11 Food and Nutrition Services or program officials may verify the information on the application at any time during the school year.

Households with students who are eligible under the Head Start, homeless, migrant, or runaway programs should contact and call the D11 homeless/runaway liaison at 640-6823 or the migrant coordinator at 520-2417 for assistance in receiving meal benefits. To complete an application, the household must mark the relevant box to indicate their appropriate eligibility and the signature of an adult household member is required.

Foster students who are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free school meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free school meals regardless of income. If a household has only foster students in the home and wishes to apply for free school meals, the application should be completed using the instructions for *households with foster children only*. If a household has foster and non-foster children living with them and wishes to apply for free school meals, the application should be completed using the instructions for *households with foster and non-foster children residing in the home*. Including foster children as household members may help other children in the household qualify for meal benefits. If the foster family is not eligible to receive meal benefits, it does not prevent a foster child from receiving free school meals.

An application cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information as indicated on the application and instructions.

When determined by Colorado Springs School District 11 Food and Nutrition Services that members of a household are receiving assistance from SNAP, TANF, Medicaid or FDPIR, households will be notified of their student's eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals. If the household receives such notice, no application is required for free or reduced-price school meal benefits. If any students in the household were not listed on the eligibility notice or not listed on the application, the household should contact Colorado Springs School District 11 Free and Reduced Coordinator at 719-520-2934 to have benefits extended to all students in the household.

When determined by Colorado Springs School District 11 Food and Nutrition Services, that an individual child is categorized as homeless, migrant, or runaway or is enrolled in an eligible Head Start program, households will be notified of the child's eligibility for free school meals. For any students not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact Colorado Springs School District 11 Free and Reduced Coordinator at 719-520-2934 about eligibility under one of these programs or should submit an application for other students.

Colorado Springs School District 11 Food and Nutrition Services will notify households of their student's eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals. The eligibility is valid for the current school year and a carryover period of up to 30 operating days into the next school year. When the carryover period ends, unless the household is notified that their student(s) are directly certified or the household submits an application that is approved, Colorado Springs School District 11 Food and Nutrition Services will not send a reminder or a notice of expired eligibility and the student must pay full price for school meals. Households notified of their student's eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals must contact Colorado Springs School District 11 Free and Reduced Coordinator at 719-520-2934 if they choose to decline meal benefits.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please contact your school district.

Under the provision of the free and reduced-price school meal policy, Laurie Hylle, Free and Reduced Coordinator, will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the decision, a request may be made to discuss it with the determining official. A formal appeal may be made either orally or in writing to Jamie Humphrey, Food and Nutrition Services, 5260 Geiger Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO 80915, 719-520-2924, jamie.humphrey@d11.org for a hearing to appeal the decision. Colorado Springs School District 11 Food and Nutrition Services has a copy of the complete free and reduced-price school meal policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party. The policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure.

Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year. The household may complete an application if any household member(s) have a decrease in income, become unemployed, have an increase in family size, become eligible for SNAP, TANF or FDPIR benefits or become categorically eligible.

If you are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals you may be eligible for SNAP, TANF, Medicaid or FDPIR.

For more information about the above assistance programs please visit <https://co.colorado.gov/colorado-peak>.

Non-discrimination statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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; or
2. **fax:**
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**
program.intake@usda.gov

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