

## A Family Guide to Griffin-Spalding County School Nutrition Program

**Breakfast and lunch are available for students every day at all schools.** GSCS provides the opportunity for each child to eat a nutritious breakfast and/or lunch during the school day. GSCS School Nutrition operates under the USDA federal meal regulations and is a self-supporting agency. Just as restaurants rely on payments at the time of service, school cafeterias must rely on meal payments and/or federal reimbursements for free/reduced benefits to operate the program.

Regulations do not allow for meal charges. Students should have funds or be in an approved meal status prior to entering the meal service line. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to provide the means for their child to be properly fed and ready to learn. In order to do this they should: provide the money for the child or children to purchase a school meal, complete the free/reduced meal application to determine if they are eligible for free or reduced price meals, or send a meal from home.

If your child does not have funds on their account or in hand to pay for a meal, they should go to the school office for directions prior to reporting to the meal service line. A copy of the system meal payment policy (charge policy) is found in your application packet.

### Lunch Numbers

All student will use their student ID number as their lunch number. This is the same number that is used to access Infinite Campus and School Transportation sites. Students should memorize their lunch number to be able to key it into the register.

### Meal Prices

	Full Pay	Reduced	Free	Adult
Breakfast (All grade levels)	\$1.25	\$.30	No charge	\$2.00
Elementary Lunch	\$2.25	\$.40	No charge	\$3.50
Middle and High Lunch	\$2.50	\$.40	No charge	\$3.50
Extra Milk (All grade levels)	\$.50	\$.50	\$.50	\$.50

### Provision 2 Schools

Some schools participate in the Special Provision 2 program which allows all students to have breakfast and lunch at no charge each day regardless of income. This program is available at Anne Street, Atkinson, Beaverbrook, Moore, Orrs, and Cowan Road Middle. Students at these schools do not need to complete a Free/Reduced Meal Benefit Application to receive meals at no charge. However,

Six additional schools will be participating in the Special Provision 2 program for the 2017-18 school year. These schools are: Cowan Road Elementary, Jackson Road, Jordan Hill, Carver Road Middle, Kennedy Road Middle, and Griffin High School. These schools will offer breakfast and lunch at no charge. To determine the amount of Federal support to which we are entitle and to help the school give meals at no charge, parents at these schools must complete a Free/Reduced Meal Benefit Application and return it to the school.

If a student leaves a Provision 2 school to transfer to a school that does not participate in Provision 2, they will change to a full-pay status and are responsible for full payment for meals received. These families must complete a free/reduced meal application in order to be considered for receiving free or reduced meals at the non-Provision 2 schools.

### Free-Reduced Meal Benefits Application

Students may be eligible to receive free or reduced meal benefits based on income or direct certification. Families are responsible for all full costs of meals until benefits are approved for the current school year. GSCS uses an online meal benefit application. GSCS encourages all families to use the online application. Applying for meal benefits online is quick, confidential, and simple. Online applications may be processed more quickly than traditional paper applications. Links to the application are found on the GSCS website. School nutrition staff will be on hand at Open House to assist with information on applying online. Families may apply online at <https://frapps.horizonsolana.com/SPAC01> from any computer or mobile device with internet access.

Meal benefits from last school year expire in September, so it is important that all families who received benefits in the past complete a new application for the current school year as soon as possible so that they will not lose benefits and be responsible for payment of the full price for meals.

### **Online Meal Payments**

Griffin-Spalding County School Nutrition has an online payment system for school lunches. MyPaymentsPlus is a one-stop website that allows parents to:

- Create a free, secured account to manage your child's lunch account
- Check your student's account balance 24/7 online
- Monitor the items your student has been purchasing in the cafeteria
- Create settings to receive email notifications when the account reaches a low balance
- Download the FREE mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android for payments on the go!

In addition, parents who pay a small program fee, MyPaymentsPlus may use the app to:

- Make a prepayment into your student's meal account using an e-check, credit card, or debit card at [www.MyPaymentsPlus.com](http://www.MyPaymentsPlus.com). Funds deposited through MyPaymentsPlus are usually available for student use quickly.
- Create settings to automatically replenish your student's account when it reaches a low balance.

Parents may set up a free My Payments Plus account online at <https://www.mypaymentsplus.com>. Help guides and more information can be found on the Griffin-Spalding County School Nutrition website <http://gscsnutrition.com>.

### **Menus**

Menus for school breakfast and school lunch are planned to comply with the guidelines for the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Menus for each month are posted on the GSCS School Nutrition website. From time to time, schools may alter menus to adjust for school activities or availability of menu items.

### **Meal Modification for Food Allergies**

GSCS Nutrition policy provides for modification of the regular school meal for children with disabilities whose disability restrict their diet, when that need is certified by a licensed physician. GSCS follows the USDA guidelines for changes in school meals. If your child has a food allergy that meets the USDA definition of a disability, you should contact your school nurse and school nutrition manager to begin the process to apply for meal modification review. In order to receive meal modifications, you must have a licensed physical or approved medical professional complete a meal modification request form. The doctor verify the following:

- **The child's disability**
- **An explanation of why the disability restricts the diet**
- **The major life activity affected by the disability (caring for one's self, eating, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working)**
- **Food or foods to be omitted from the diet**
- **Food or choice of foods that must be substituted**

The form is return to the school nurse who shares with the nutrition department. The form is reviewed to see if the food allergy meets modification requirements. If it does, a meeting will be held with the school nurse, the school nutrition manager, and the system manager supervisor to review the prescription and prepare the meal modification plan. Plans are reviewed and updated annually. Students covered under IDEA or Section 504 may be eligible for meal modification based on their current IEP.

If you have questions about the school lunch program, contact the nutrition manager at your child's school or the School Nutrition Office at 770-229-3700.