

PARENTS/GUARDIANS,

AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Reduced Price Meal Reimbursement Additional Notes: The Ohio Department of Education is thrilled to announce the State of Ohio FY24-FY25 biennial budget includes funding to cover the cost of providing no-cost breakfast and no-cost lunch to students qualifying for reduced-price meals. Starting in school year 2023-2024, the budget language requires public and chartered nonpublic schools that participate in the National School Breakfast or Lunch Program to provide a breakfast or lunch at no cost to each student eligible for a reduced-price breakfast or lunch. The state will then reimburse the schools 30 cents per reduced-price breakfast served and 40 cents per reduced-price lunch served. On the effective date of Oct. 3, 2023, the budget bill requires all participating schools to provide the no-cost meal to each eligible student although schools may and are encouraged to start the school year without collecting money from reduced-price students. Reduced Price Meal Reimbursement is available for meals served starting the first school day of the 2023-2024 school year.

Schools will continue to certify students for free or reduced meals and count and claim meals as free, reduced or paid. Schools simply will not collect money from reduced-price eligible students starting in school year 2023-2024. The Department will share additional updates as the process for reimbursing schools for the reduced-price breakfasts and lunches served is finalized.

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