



## Fairport Harbor Exempted Village School District

329 Vine Street, Fairport Harbor, OH 44077

(440)-354-5400

[info@fhevs.org](mailto:info@fhevs.org) Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

August 11, 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Nutrition Department would like to share some updates as we prepare for the start of the new school year.

The Ohio Department of Education is thrilled to announce the state of Ohio approved funding to cover the cost of providing no-cost breakfast and no-cost lunches to students qualifying for reduced-price meals. Starting in the school year 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, 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.

### ***What does this mean for you?***

1. For the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years, students that qualify for reduced-price meals will receive their meals at no cost. They will not be required to pay the .30 for breakfast or the .40 for lunch.
2. If your student was eligible for reduced-price meals last school year, that status carries over the first 30 days of the new school year. Those students will receive their meals at no cost beginning the first day of school. In order to continue this benefit, families will need to fill out a new free or reduced-price meal application before October 2, 2023. If you have questions or would like to know your student's status, please contact the Nutrition Services Department.

A percentage of families in the district are eligible for free meals through the direct certification process. In the past, this process has matched students through Job and Family Services via a SNAP number. This year, the process has added Medicaid as a qualifier. This is only through direct certification, and families will be notified via mail if they qualify. We are still only allowed to accept SNAP numbers on applications. Please do not put your Medicaid number on your paper or online application, we will not be able to process it. This is ONLY available through the direct certification process.

Benefits for free or reduced-price meals carry over for the first 30 days of the new school year. Please fill out a new application for this school year as soon as possible to avoid any interruption to your student's benefits. If a new application is not filled out by October 2, 2023, your student will default to full pay status.

### **Fairport Harbor Exempted Village School District asks all families to complete a new free/reduced lunch application every school year.**

Applications are completely confidential, can be completed by all families enrolled in our school district, and do not require a Social Security number.

### **Nationwide, Permanent Summer EBT: Looking Ahead to 2024**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, which passed in December 2022, included an investment in addressing summer hunger and created a complementary approach to the existing Summer Nutrition Programs. The legislation creates a nationwide, permanent Summer EBT Program, building on the success of previous Summer EBT demonstration projects and the Pandemic EBT Program, which provides families with eligible children grocery benefits to purchase food during the summer months. This approach has been successful in reducing food insecurity when children lose access to free and reduced price school meals during the summer and throughout the pandemic. A child must be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals in order to participate in Summer EBT.

Again, a new free/reduced lunch application needs to be completed every school year. The school meals application also helps the district, and your child's school receive much-needed education funding.

## Parents/Guardians can fill out the application using the Infinite Campus Parent Portal,

<https://lgca.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/parents/fairport.jsp>.

The application is located by following this pathway:

- 1.) Select the menu (three bars)
- 2.) Select More
- 3.) Proceed to the meal benefits application.
- 4.) Click to start the meal benefits application.

Click [HERE](#) to be directed to the paper application for your convenience. Please complete one of the application methods.

If you choose the paper application, kindly return it to the school office as soon as possible. We strongly recommend all families complete the application annually. Income qualifications change from year to year.

Below is the meal pricing for next school year. We accept online payments through your parent portal, and checks or cash at the register. We do not recommend sending cash with younger students as it can get misplaced or not make its way to the cafeteria. We are not responsible for lost or stolen money that does not get applied to a student's account.

Pricing for the 2023-2024 SY	Breakfast	Lunch
K-5	\$2.00	\$3.50
6-12	\$2.50	\$4.00

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact our office at 440-358-8212 or email at [michelle.gifford@riversideschools.net](mailto:michelle.gifford@riversideschools.net). You may also contact Cindi Clair at the Fairport Harbor Exempted Village Board of Education Office, [cclair@fhevs.org](mailto:cclair@fhevs.org), or 440-354-5400, Ext. 102.

Sincerely,

***Michelle Gifford***

Michelle Gifford, Director

Nutrition Services Department Riverside Schools