



August 2018

Dear Ann Arbor Public Schools Students, Parents and School Community:

Every Child needs a healthy, filling meal to learn. Chartwells School Dining Services, in partnership with the Ann Arbor School District, offers nutritious meals to children each school day, often at a free or reduced price for those who need it. We participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast program (NSLBP), a federally funded program that helps children receive free or reduced meals. Over 224 billion lunches have been served to students in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program since it was founded in 1946.

What exactly is a free or reduced price meal? These meals are the exact same as what other children are served – there is no “reduced meal.” The price of the meal is reduced or waived for families based on income.

Does my family qualify? More families qualify than you may think. There are two ways to apply.

- **On-Line Free or Reduced Meal Applications:**
We encourage you to apply on-line for the Free or Reduced Price Meals. Our on-line service is simple, fast, and free. Now you can use your smart phone or tablet to apply as well. This is the fastest way to apply for meal benefits. The on-line application is available at <http://www.a2schools.org/Page/8315>
- **Paper Application:** If you are unable to apply on-line, please fill out the attached paper application. **Please only submit one application per family.** If you have children in multiple school buildings within AAPS, it is not necessary to turn one in at each building. Applications filled out prior to the start of the school year should be mailed to: Ann Arbor Public Schools Food Services, 601 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor MI 48103. **During the school year, applications can be turned in at any school cafeteria.** All free and reduced meal forms are kept confidential per USDA guidelines.
- **Award Letter:** Once your Meal Application is processed, you will receive a letter in the mail indicating the approval status. **BE SURE TO KEEP YOUR AWARD LETTER AS YOU CAN USE IT TO APPLY FOR AN ATHLETIC AND/OR REC & ED SCHOLARSHIPS.** Your child can also attend after school classes and other Rec & Ed programs for free or reduced cost if qualified. Visit aareced.com for more information.

NEW CHARGING POLICY: In the event a student does not have sufficient funds in hand or on their account to pay for a school meal, the student will be allowed to charge a meal to his or her account. Food service personnel will minimize the identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals. However, students and parents/guardians are encouraged to pay for the charged meal as soon as possible, as all unpaid and delinquent balances must be paid in full by the end of each semester (trimester for Skyline students). Further, Parents/Guardians of students who charge meals will be encouraged to apply for free or reduced price meals