



SOUTH HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Food Service Department
100 Mosier St.
South Hadley, MA 01075



We Serve Growing Minds!

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome back to the 2023-2024 school year. The cafeteria staff is committed to serving nutritious and well-balanced meals that meet or exceed the state guidelines. Governor Healey and the state have signed the bill for ALL students to receive free breakfast and lunch for the 23-24 school year. This benefit will expire June 30, 2024.

MEAL SERVICE: Each school will be offering breakfast and lunch to ALL students. Please see the menus for serving times.

PRICING: ALL meals are FREE to ALL students for this school year, ending June 30, 2024. If students want a second meal, the cost will be: Plains School lunch cost \$2.35, Mosier & Middle cost \$2.60, and the High School cost \$2.85. Snacks and ala cart items will be offered to the students. There is NO charging of these items, they must have cash or money on the lunch account.

FREE & REDUCED APPLICATIONS: While ALL students will receive free meals this school year, if you want to participate in other programs/benefits offered by the state, then you will need to fill out a free & reduced meals application if you are **NOT** directly certified through the state. If you receive a letter from the lunch program stating that your child/student is “direct certified” for either free or reduced-price meals, you **DO NOT** need to fill out an application. If your child/student qualified for free or reduced-price meals in the past and you did **NOT** receive a direct certified letter this school year, you should fill out a new application. To clarify, if families want to participate with other benefits provided by the state and you are NOT direct certified, then a free & reduced meals application **MUST** be submitted. Direct certified letters will be emailed. To avoid interruption with your child’s benefits, a new application **MUST** be submitted prior to the end of the 30 days (October 13, 2023).

If you have submitted an application for free and reduced meals for your household, you will be notified of the status once we complete the review. Please be patient while we process applications.

COMPLETE LUNCH: *PLEASE* let your students know that even though all meals are free this school year, they **MUST** take a complete meal, or they will be charged the full amount. Every lunch offers the 5 components of a reimbursable lunch: meat/meat alternate, grain, vegetable, fruit and milk. Every student must take at least 3 of the 5 components of the lunch to be considered reimbursable and 1 of those items **MUST** be either a fruit or vegetable. If a student refuses to take either the fruit or vegetable, they will be charged at the ala carte rate which is more expensive than the current lunch prices.

LUNCH PAYMENTS: The lunch program will continue to be “cash-less” this year! Checks can be mailed in or dropped off at the main office and we will make the deposit into student’s accounts. If cash is the only option, all funds will be deposited, change will not be given back to avoid contamination and slowing down the serving line. We **STRONGLY** encourage that all students (parent/ guardian) consider depositing money into their accounts electronically by using www.myschoolbucks.com. Simply login in and follow the user-friendly prompts. After you register for an account, you will be able to make deposits into your student’s account, as well as monitor the balance, and history of purchases from the previous 90 days. If at any time you would like to know your child’s balance, you may speak with the cafeteria manager or contact the Food Service Office at 534-1995 or email Matt Hoagland at mhoagland@shschools.com or Cindy Roy at croy@shschools.com.

LUNCH BALANCES: ALL student balances are carried forward each year. If there are funds on their account, they can use them for snacks, extra meals, ala carte items etc.... If there is a negative balance, please make every effort to clear them out. Please contact the food service office if you have any questions referring students’ balances.



We look forward to serving your child with high quality and nutritious school meals.

Sincerely, Matt Hoagland