



PUSD to Offer Free Meals for Elementary School Students in 2022-23

The Piedmont Unified School District (PUSD) is excited to announce it will participate in the State's Universal Meals program for the 2022-23 school year, providing all students with access to free breakfast and lunch. The elementary hot lunch program will transition to a different vendor, with different offerings and a different lunch selection process. We need your help to select the next vendor, and we will still need your help with the meal program's daily operations.

In preparation for the rollout of the program next fall, PUSD is seeking involvement from parents and guardians to assist in the selection process for a local vendor to provide nutritious meals students will want to eat. We need your expertise, your experience, and your input, to make decisions for the next school year. Please answer a [short survey](#) and consider being part of the Universal Meals Vendor Selection Parent Volunteer Committee.

A Little About the Program: The State's Universal Meals program requires the District's participation in the National School Lunch Program. Aligning with the nutritional regulations for the federal program will require a shift from the daily variety and choices PUSD students have been accustomed to, but the favorite selections kids love will still be served on a rotating menu. All students will be offered a breakfast and a lunch, but are not required to participate.

- Daily breakfast must consist of one cup of fruit, one cup of milk and between 1-2 ounces of whole grains. To qualify as a reimbursable meal, students must select two of the three items offered.
- Lunch must consist of 1/2 cup fruit, 3/4 cup vegetable, two ounces whole grain, 1-2 ounces of meat/meat alternative, and one cup of milk. To qualify as a reimbursable meal, students must select three of the five offerings with the entree typically containing two offerings by itself. Meal examples:
 - Day 1 - a bean and cheese burrito (this contains two components - the meat/meat alternative and the grain), corn salsa, an orange and milk.
 - Day 2 – cheese pizza (2 components), garden salad, an apple and milk.

There are also weekly minimums to achieve and serving restrictions on calories, fat and sodium for every meal. The vegetable offering at lunch must be rotated so the categories of dark green, legumes, red-orange and starchy are included over the course of a week. There are no requirements for gluten-free and vegetarian options, but creating these items for the menu could be achieved with limitations. The State will reimburse \$1.97 for breakfast and \$3.73 for lunch.

Families have been instrumental in partnering with the District to build a successful lunch program for students. Without their dedication, hard work, and passion for making sure kids receive the nutrition they need to prepare them for learning, we would not have been able to provide this service. Thank you for all you have done to support the education of our students.