

# THIS FALL, 'BACK TO SCHOOL' WILL ALSO MEAN 'BACK TO STUDENT MEAL RATES' FOR NUTRITIOUS SCHOOL MEALS

Schools will transition back to requiring family applications for free and reduced-price meals to meet USDA requirements.



In the 2022-2023 school year, schools are required to return to charging for school meals on the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) based on program eligibility.



## All Income Eligible Families Should Complete These Steps:

- As soon as possible, complete the NSLP Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals
- Contact your district for where to access an application
- Return the form to the school office or submit online if available electronically
- Watch for notification of eligibility in the mail or in an email
- Familiarize yourself with how your school accepts payment in the cafeteria for meals and a la carte items
- Ask questions! Contact your district with any questions, your school nutrition department is excited to serve you and your student(s).

## Why Aren't Meals Free to All Students?

During the pandemic, schools were able to offer no cost meals to all students due to temporary program flexibilities provided by the federal government. These flexibilities have expired, and the U.S. Congress did not provide funding in this year's budget to allow schools to serve free meals to all students in the 2022-2023 school year. Your school nutrition team looks forward to serving healthy, balanced meals to every student in the new school year. These meals offer a good source of nutrition for children.

## Why Are Meals Free To All At Other Campuses?

Certain campuses are eligible to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). The CEP is a federally funded option that allows all students to eat breakfast and lunch during the school day for free.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
**COMMISSIONER SID MILLER**

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