

July 1, 2026

Dear Riverside Families,

The Nutrition Department is excited to share an important update regarding our meal program for the upcoming school year.

Beginning August of 2026, two of our elementary buildings, **Riverview and Melridge**, have qualified to be a part of the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

What this means for Riverview and Melridge students:

- **Meals at No Charge:** All enrolled students at these two locations will receive a nutritious breakfast and lunch at no cost every school day.
- **No Meal Applications Needed:** You do not need to fill out a traditional meal application for students attending these two buildings to receive free meals.
- **Instructional Fee Waivers:** Because traditional applications are not used here, we will provide an alternative **Household Income Form**. Filling this out helps determine if your family qualifies for a waiver of instructional fees.
- **Household Matching:** If you successfully submit a qualifying meal application for a child in a *different* building, and sign the permission to share section, we will use that data to waive instructional fees for all students in your household.

? Why just these two buildings? How were they selected?

Eligibility for the CEP program is determined by strict federal guidelines. It is based on the percentage of students in a specific school building who automatically qualify for free meals through state and federal assistance programs (such as SNAP or Medicaid). This year, Riverview and Melridge met the exact federal data thresholds required to launch the program. We are thrilled to provide this benefit to these student bodies.

What this means for other buildings in the district:

Our other five buildings—**Buckeye, Parkside, LaMuth, JRW, and RHS**—will continue to operate under the standard meal program. ***Breakfast will still be at no charge at Buckeye and Parkside for the 26/27 school year.***

- **How to Apply:** To qualify for free or reduced-price meals at these five locations, households must submit a standard meal application.
- **Timeline:** Applications will be available on **July 1, 2026** and you can apply at any time during the school year.

- **How to Submit:** You can apply online via the parent portal in [Infinite Campus](#). Paper applications can be turned in to your school office in August when building secretaries return.
- **Split Households:** If you have children in both a CEP building (Riverview/Melridge) and a non-CEP building, **you must fill out an application for the child in the non-CEP building** to see if they qualify for free or reduced-price status.

2026-2027 Meal Pricing (Non-CEP Buildings)

Pricing for the 2026-2027 SY	Breakfast	Lunch
Parkside & Buckeye	No Charge	\$3.50
LaMuth & Campus	\$2.50	\$4.00

Payment Information & Cafeteria Policies

- **Online Payments:** We highly encourage using your parent portal in Infinite Campus for secure, instant online payments.
- **In-Person Payments:** We accept checks or cash at the cafeteria register.
- **Cash Policy:** We strongly discourage sending cash with younger students, as it can easily be misplaced. Please note that the district is not responsible for lost or stolen money that does not make it to a student's account.

We look forward to serving your children healthy, delicious meals this August! If you have any questions, please contact the Nutrition Department.

Sincerely,

Michelle Gifford, SNS
 Director of Nutrition Services
 Riverside Local Schools