WELCOME BACK!









DEAR LEXINGTON PARENTS AND STUDENTS,

The beginning of the school year is fast approaching, and our Whitsons School Nutrition team is ready and excited to provide nutritious, well-balanced meals to the Lexington School Community.

The federally assisted National School Lunch Program (NSLP) & School Breakfast Program (SBP) provide nutritionally balanced meals to children each school day. This year, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has decided to extend **FREE school meals** for all students through the 2026-2027 school year. This means that one breakfast and one lunch will be served at no cost to all students in Lexington. No form is needed to receive free meals.

This letter contains important information, changes, and resources regarding our school meal programs as we move into the 2026-2027 school year. Please remember that changes to our programs may occur as circumstances evolve, but we will continue to update families on what to expect and how to navigate any changes.

DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

Kevin Silvia, **Resident District Manager**
(781) 861-2320 Ext. 69107
ksilvia@lexingtonma.org

Michael Ortyl, Catering **Assistant District Manager**
(781) 861-2320 Ext. 69110
mortyl@lexingtonma.org

Jenny Bailey, **Assistant District Manager**
(781) 861-2320 Ext 69108
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Jason Scotti, **Catering Manager**
(781) 861-2320 Ext 69109
jascotti@lexingtonma.org

FREE AND REDUCED APPLICATIONS

Although meals are free this year, we encourage low-income families to fill out an application to receive additional food assistance benefits when provided by the state of Massachusetts, associated with free and reduced eligibility status, such as the “Summer Eats Program”. Hard copy applications were emailed out over the summer, but you can also apply online at www.myschoolapps.com. To access a hard copy form, click here, or email jcoenne@lexingtonma.org.

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Please complete and return hard copy applications to the **Lexington Business Office** as soon as possible in one of the following ways:

1. Online applications at https://www.myschoolapps.com
2. Email to operations@lexingtonma.org
3. Fax to 781-861-2560
4. Drop off at your child's school's main office
5. Mail to: Business Office, Lexington Public Schools, 173 Bedford Street, Lexington, MA 02420.

If your student is returning, please be aware that last year's status expires on **October 16th**, and your student's status will be returned to paid and will not be eligible to receive additional food assistance benefits that may become available through the State of Massachusetts if the district has not received a new application by that date. For more information or questions about the free and reduced application, please contact the **Business Office** at **781-861-2580 extension 68061**.

MEAL PRICES AND MENUS

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) announced it will provide funding that allows us to continue serving **FREE Meals to ALL students for the entire 2026-2027 school year, REGARDLESS OF ELIGIBILITY STATUS.**

	Breakfast	Lunch
Paid*	**$0.00**	**$0.00**
Reduced*	**$0.00**	**$0.00**
Adult	$2.75	$5.50

*All Reimbursable Meal Prices abide by the USDA & DESE guidelines.

ONE FREE BREAKFAST & ONE FREE LUNCH PER STUDENT PER DAY

All reimbursable lunches include balanced portions of grains, proteins, vegetables, and fruits, plus an optional 8-oz low-fat (1%) or fat-free chocolate milk. **Students must take either a fruit or a vegetable with their meal for it to be considered free.** Additionally, a la carte fruit and milk cartons are available for purchase.

View our full interactive menus online at http://www.fdmealplanner.com/#lexington.

Interactive menus provide nutritional and allergen information for all school meals.



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STUDENT LUNCH ACCOUNT PAYMENTS AND MONITORING

Student Lunch Account payments can be made through MySchoolBucks.com using a debit/credit card, or an electronic check. The fee for using MSB has increased for SY27 to $3.75 for a maximum of $150.00 per transaction, debit/credit; the e-check fee will remain the same. Other options are that payments can be submitted by sending cash or a check made out to "Town of Lexington" to:

Lexington High School
Attention: Food Service Main Office
251 Waltham Street
Lexington, MA 02421

Students can also drop cash/checks off at their school's cafeteria or main office. If you are mailing/dropping off a check, please include the student's full name and grade inside a sealed envelope.

Follow these steps to set up a MySchoolBucks account:

1. Download the app or visit the MySchoolBucks homepage and click on “Sign Up Free”.
2. Create a user profile with your email address, establish a password, and set up your security questions.
3. Add a Student to your account using the student’s name, date of birth, and/or student ID number (an 8-digit student ID number can be obtained by contacting the food service office or main office; Students in the LABBB Program will have a *10-digit number.*

   Once you have added your student(s) to your account, you can make one-time payments or set up auto-pay. If you go into your profile, you may also set up low-balance notifications. When your child's balance falls below your specified amount, an email will automatically be sent to the address on your profile.

Students at the High School, Middle School, and Elementary School will be provided with a PIN code to access free meals and to purchase à la carte items, such as Smart Snack items, water, 2nd lunch, snacks, juices, ice cream, and cookies. We highly encourage all students to memorize their PINs for faster service. **Although reimbursable meals are free, please note that all meals must be accounted for through the cashier lines using PINs, and any a la carte items will be charged to the student’s account.**

We strongly encourage you to utilize the payment options described above. This will help increase the speed of service.



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HOW TO GET IN-SCHOOL MEALS

LEXINGTON CHILDREN'S PLACE MEAL SERVICE

LCP parents must order all meals (breakfast and lunch) through the new MEALORDERS program.

Breakfast and lunch orders will be delivered to the classrooms. Please place all meal orders through the new MEALORDERS program before the cutoff time*. **Log-on instructions here.**

- **Breakfast and lunch will be available every school day**
- **Preorder: Meal Order Program**
- ***Preorder Cutoff Time: 11 AM The Night Before**
- **Meal Payment: Reimbursable meals are FREE for ALL Lexington Public School students (one breakfast and lunch per student). Student accounts will be charged for any à la carte items or additional meals. Please ensure your student(s) have a positive account balance before ordering à la carte items or extra meals.**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE

Students at the elementary school must pre-order lunch in the classroom during **homeroom attendance at the beginning of the day**. Breakfast will not be pre-ordered but will be made available half an hour before the school day begins.

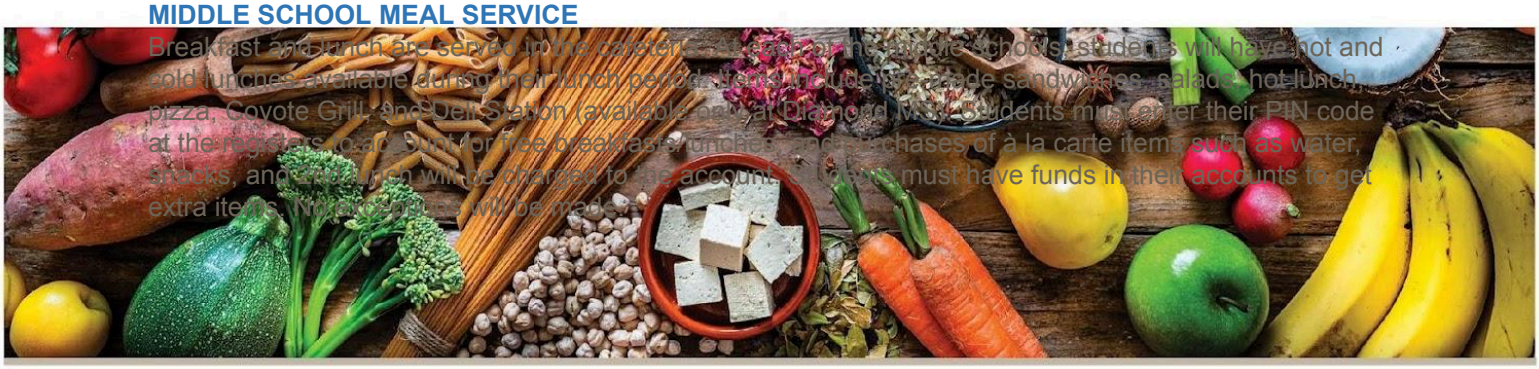
Students will pick up their breakfast and lunch orders in the cafeteria. Students must enter their PIN code at the registers to account for free breakfasts/lunches and purchase à la carte items such as water, snacks, 2nd lunch, etc.

- **Breakfast and lunch will be available every school day**
- **Preorder: Homeroom in the morning, Lunch Only.**
- **Meal Payment: Reimbursable meals are FREE for ALL Lexington Public School students (one breakfast and one lunch per student). Student accounts will be charged for any a la carte items or additional meals. Please ensure your student(s) have a positive account balance before ordering a la carte items or extra meals.**
- **Additional information: On half-day Fridays, meals will still be served in the cafeteria, and seating will be provided. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on all half days in SY 2026-2027.**

STUDENTS MUST TAKE A FRUIT OR VEGETABLE WITH THEIR MEAL FOR IT TO BE CONSIDERED FREE

MIDDLE SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE

Breakfast and lunch are served in the cafeteria. [illegible] Middle Schools students will have hot and cold lunches available during their lunch period. Items include: grab-and-go sandwiches, salads, hot lunch, pizza, Coyote Grill, and Deli Station (available only at Diamond Middle). Students must enter their PIN code at the registers to account for free breakfasts/lunches and purchases of à la carte items such as water, snacks, and 2nd lunch will be charged to [illegible] accounts. Students must have funds in their accounts to get extra items. No [illegible] will be made.



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- **Breakfast and lunch will be available every school day**
- **Pre-order: Not Available.**
- **Meal Payment: Reimbursable meals are FREE for ALL Lexington Public School students (one breakfast and one lunch per student). Student accounts will be charged for any a la carte items or additional meals by using their PIN code. Please ensure your student(s) have a positive account balance before purchasing a la carte items or extra meals.**
- **Additional information: Breakfast and lunch will be provided on all half days in SY 2026-2027.**

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HIGH SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE

Grab & Go breakfast is available in Commons I, and lunch is available in both Commons I and Commons II as well as the deli in the Commons II seating area. Concept lunches, such as Deli, La Cucina, Coyote Grill, Ruby Grill, and Real Meals, will be available in Commons I and II. Students must enter their PIN codes at the register to account for free breakfasts/lunches and purchase à la carte items such as water, snacks, 2nd lunch, etc.

- **Breakfast and Lunch will be available every school day**
- **Meal Payment: Reimbursable meals are FREE for ALL Lexington Public School students (one breakfast and one lunch per student). Student accounts will be charged for any a la carte items or additional meals using their PIN or student ID card. Please ensure your student(s) have a positive account balance before purchasing a la carte items or extra meals.**
- **Additional information: Breakfast and lunch will be provided on all half days in SY 2026-2027.**

STUDENTS MUST TAKE A FRUIT OR VEGETABLE WITH THEIR MEAL FOR IT TO BE CONSIDERED FREE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To learn more about Whitsons and to stay up to date with any changes to the food service in Lexington Public Schools, please visit Lexington School Foodservice.

Our partnership with Lexington Public Schools allows us to be a part of the Lexington School Community, and we want to thank all of you for your continued support during the school year. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Food Service Department with any questions or concerns you or your family may have.

Sincerely,

Kevin Silvia

Kevin Silvia
Resident District Manager

