

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

The mission of the Cullman County Schools Child Nutrition Program is to provide our students with the best nutrition according to **Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010** guidelines while following HAACP regulations. We strive to do this in the most pleasant atmosphere possible. We exist to serve our students.

Our school cafeterias are self-sufficient, using revenues generated from breakfast, lunch and ala carte sales to pay all food cost, supplies, employee salaries/benefits, equipment purchases and repairs and utilities. Participating in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, our cafeterias offer breakfast and lunch daily at all cafeteria sites. The Child Nutrition Program follows state and federal regulations and guidelines, which allows the program to receive Federal reimbursement for student meals and ala carte sales. USDA commodities are received and used with purchased food to reduce plate costs, making the meals affordable. Centralized menus are used and foods are prepared using USDA standardized recipes

The majority of our cafeterias have “self-serve” serving lines. Portion control is required and necessary, so many items are pre-portioned. Students are given “Offer vs. Serve” choices in selecting what they wish to eat. Students must select at least 3 items (**at least 1 being a serving of fruit or vegetable**) from the 5 different food groups offered for the meal to be considered reimbursable.

Applications for Free and Reduced meals are available to anyone at any time throughout the school year and can be obtained at any school office, school cafeteria and at the Central Office. A Multi Child Application is used to process eligibility for Free and Reduced meals. Only one application is needed to process all children in a single family/household. Applications are processed at the Cullman County Schools Central Office and can be mailed directly to CCBOE, Child Nutrition Program , P.O. Box 1590, Cullman, AL 35056-1590 or given to the cafeteria manager of your school. Students are not eligible for free and reduced priced meals until their application is processed and confirmed.

An automated system is utilized for cafeteria sales. This system generates a unique account number for each student, faculty and staff member. Prepayments are encouraged to speed up service through the lunch lines and checks are accepted. Any “bad checks” are recovered by an independent check recovery company and will be charged a fee by that company. After an individual has presented two (2) insufficient funds checks or one (1) check on a closed account, the CNP bookkeeper will block checks for the student(s) accounts on PCS for the remainder of the school year and send a letter to individual notifying them of this action. Detailed “Activity Reports” on individual accounts are available upon parent request anytime during the school year. These reports show payments, lunches and ala carte purchases and account balances. Please contact your school cafeteria manager if you would like a printout. All credit balances are “rolled over” for the student to use the next school year. If a refund is desired, the parent should contact the school cafeteria manager. A check request will be completed and sent to the Central Office for payment. ALL negative balances are to be paid before the last day of the school year.

For additional information about the Child Nutrition Program, you may call 256-734-2933 or contact us at 402 Arnold Street NE, Cullman, AL 35055.