



FAQ'S

2019-2020

School Lunch can be terrifying for a new student – here are a few answers to help with school lunch anxiety!

How do I know if my child qualifies for free lunch?

Your child will receive a free/reduced meal application on the first day of school or you can print a copy of the application available on the school district web site under the food service link. Return completed application to your school office or to the food service office at the address listed on the application form. You will be notified of the status of the application within 10 days of submitting the form. Applications are available and can be submitted anytime throughout the school year.

We have other students in the district already – will my youngest child automatically receive meal benefits like the older children? In most cases we will be able to automatically verify meal status with new students. If you are finding you have not been notified about the meal status for ALL students in your household please contact the food service office at 845-838-6900 X2021.

Do other children know that my child qualifies for free/reduced meals? No - Meal status is not identified at the register, and no staff member or teacher has access to this protected information. Each child is entered into the register the same way, so there is no overt identification of meal status. If your child qualifies for reduced priced meals this fee is now paid for by New York state so there is no fee for Reduced priced meals.

If I received a notification that my child already qualifies for free meals this year, do I still fill out an application? No need to fill out an application if you have received a notification recently identifying ALL of your children as recipients of free/reduced meals.

What is the process for meal service? Elementary age students who wish to receive a meal from the cafeteria will be tallied by their teacher at the start of each day – meal choice tally is send to the cafeteria for meal counts. Students having school lunch will be lined up accordingly based on meal choice. At the Cash register they are prompted to enter their 5 digit school ID in a pin pad where the cashier will log their meals. Pre K students have special arrangements for meal times. Check with your school. Middle and High School students do not pre select meals. Choices for multiple options for meals are available in the cafeterias.

What if my child does not know or remember their school ID. We are used to that! Our cashiers assist students who do not know their school ID. Not to worry – this happens even to high school students.

If we do not qualify for free meals how do we pay for them? You can pay for meals in three ways – on line at “MYSCHOOLBUCKS.COM” (there is a transaction fee for this service charged by myschoolbucks) or Pay by check sent with your child – please indicate their school ID on the check or Pay by cash sent with your child - in an envelope sealed – child name and ID. Just be aware – the

start of school is pretty chaotic – sending loose cash with a young child that is not clearly identified can lead to lost money and stressful lunches.

What do I do when I do not know my child's ID and MYSCHOOLBUCKS asks for that to register? There is a request link on the MYSCHOOLBUCKS web site that sends an email request for student ID number. When we receive this request from MYSCHOOLBUCKS we will send you an email with your child's ID number. They will keep this number for their entire school education.

How do I know how much money my child has left on their account? Even if you do not wish to deposit money on the myschoolbucks.com site- you should still register on that site – with this program you can see daily purchases, account balances, receive balance alerts and even set up an automatic payment if the account reaches a low level.

If my child qualifies for free or reduced school lunch do they also qualify for Breakfast? Yes they do – all of the schools in BCSD offer school breakfast at the start of the school day and we encourage students to participate. Children who start the day with breakfast will have a much better school day. If you run out of time at home – no worries – school breakfast is ready for your child. Check out our menu on the school web site or sent home at the start of each month.

What snacks are sold and how does this work? The School snack program follows USDA guidelines for permitted snacks that meet strict nutritional guidelines. Students at the elementary level may buy snacks if they have funds on their accounts on the days snacks are sold. If a guardian wishes to restrict snack purchases they may contact the food service office with specifics on the restriction.

How can I limit the number of snacks my child can purchase with their MySchoolBucks account?

You can manage your child's MySchoolBucks account online to see account balances, what is being purchased etc. Any guardian wishing to limit snacks can contact the Food Service Office at : Pagano.k@beaconk12.org or Moustakas.D@beaconk12.org. with a restriction request in writing. Be aware these restrictions follow the child throughout their years in our district –so modification is sometimes necessary.

What if my child has a food allergy or a restricted diet?

Children with a physician restricted Medical order for a specific Diet send that documentation to school Nurse. They will in turn communicate with the kitchen to assure reasonable accommodations. Communication with the school cafeteria manager is a best option to determine alternatives available. Each cafeteria offers non meat options and can provide gluten free alternatives with adequate notice.

Can we opt for school lunch on certain days of the week and bring lunch from home on others? Yes!