

# Free Meals Starting September 21st

South Sioux City Community Schools will provide free meals (breakfast & lunch) to all SSCCS students beginning **Monday, September 21, 2020**. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a nationwide waiver to allow all students to receive free meals through December 31, 2020, as long as funding remains available. All On-Site Learners will be served meals at school. Virtual Learners are still able to pick up meals at Covington Elementary door #3 on Tuesdays through Fridays from 1:30 to 2:30. Parents wanting to pick up meals for virtual students should complete the [request form](#) on the district website.

## **How does this affect your student's school lunch status?**

Students who already receive free meals will experience no change in lunch status. Students that are full pay or reduced lunch status will be **Temporarily** moved to **FREE** status. No meal charges will be made to student accounts from September 21 through December 31, 2020 or until the district is notified by the USDA and the Nebraska Department of Education that the funding is depleted. The USDA is unable to forecast if this funding will run out before December 31; therefore, the free meal program will be a fluid process. We will notify families as soon as possible if we are made aware of any changes.

When the USDA ends the free meal program, students will return to their original lunch status, and student accounts will be charged accordingly for the rest of the school year.

Meal funds will remain in student accounts to be used when the free meal flexibilities are no longer in effect. Parents and guardians should add funds to their student's account if there is a negative balance or if the students would like to purchase ala carte or extra items. [Follow this link to pay your meal charges online](#).

## **How does this affect applying for free and reduced lunches?**

Parents/guardians are still encouraged to complete the Free and Reduced Price Meal Application. [Apply here](#) or pick up an application from your child's school. Completing the application now ensures you will still receive the appropriate meal benefits when the USDA free meal program expires. Completing the application also helps the district to secure grant funding for other district programs in addition to nutrition services.

