



Gregory-Portland Independent School District

Office of Food & Nutrition Services | *Wildcat Café*

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Standard Meal Programs Restored at Gregory-Portland ISD for 2020-2021

(Following Three (3) School Years of 'Free Meals' under Limited-Time Federal CEP Provision)

Parents/Guardians: Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the standard Paid and Free or Reduced-Price Meal Programs will be restored at Gregory-Portland ISD. This change follows three (3) school years of "Free Meals" given to our students (one breakfast, one lunch at no charge) under a Limited-Time Federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) granted as a result of impacts experienced after Hurricane Harvey.

While our school district did not experience the degree of damage and loss that other districts experienced, we appreciated being able to offer "free meals" under the federal provision for the 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20 school years. However, due to the expiration of the Hurricane Harvey waiver and changes in economic conditions, CEP is no longer an option for Gregory-Portland ISD. Beginning in July of 2020, all previous processes (including the required Free and Reduced-Price Meal application process) will resume.

FREE & REDUCED-PRICE MEALS:

- Your household must meet eligibility requirements for your child(ren) to receive free or reduced-priced meals at school in the 2020-2021 school year.
- **Many of our families qualify for the Free or Reduced-Price Meal Program(s), and we encourage you to submit an application on or after July 1, 2020, to find out what option(s) may be available to you in the next school year.**
 - Applications for the next school year will be available online beginning July 1st at www.wildcatcafe.org.
 - If you have questions about the application, process, or do not have Internet access to download a copy online, please contact us at 361-777-1098.
 - **Child Status: Homeless, Runaway, Migrant, Foster Child, Head Start** – If a child can be identified with a status among those listed here, or participates in a Head Start program, please indicate that status on your application.
- **Free Meals for SNAP & TANF** - If any member of your household receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP) benefits or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits, your child automatically qualifies for free meals. You will receive notification from G-PISD Food & Nutrition Services (Wildcat Café) informing you that you do not need to submit a Free or Reduced-Price Meal application.

- **Reduced-Price Meal Rate(s) for 2020-2021** - If your household does not qualify for free meals, but does qualify for reduced-priced meals, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) has established the following reduced-price meal rates:
 - Reduced-Price Breakfast - \$0.30 per meal
 - Reduced-Price Lunch - \$0.40 per meal
 - Gregory-Portland ISD also allows student(s) to charge one (1) Breakfast and one (1) Lunch if their meal account runs into a negative balance.

PAID STUDENT MEALS:

- If your household does not qualify for free or reduced-priced meals (per the results of the application process mentioned above), Gregory-Portland ISD offers paid student meals for your child(ren).
- **Paid Meal Rate(s) for 2020-2021** - Gregory-Portland ISD will offer the following rates:
 - Paid Breakfast for PK – 12th Grade - \$2.00 per meal
 - Paid Lunch for PK – 5th Grade - \$2.45 per meal
 - Paid Lunch for 6th – 12th Grades - \$2.75 per meal

LUNCH ACCOUNTS & MENU ITEMS:

- Wildcat Café offers ‘a la carte’ items for sale at all campuses, in addition to standard meals mentioned above. Students may purchase ‘a la carte’ items with meal account(s) or cash.
- Parents/Guardians can add funds into student meal account(s) online at www.wildcatcafe.org (through the “Lunch Money Now” system).
- Gregory-Portland ISD also allows student(s) to charge one (1) Breakfast and one (1) Lunch if their meal account runs into a negative balance.
- Menus, Pricing, and other important information are posted online at www.wildcatcafe.org.

LIMITED / MINIMAL MEAL PRICING ADJUSTMENT for 2020-2021: Please be advised that meal pricing assessments and adjustments occur on an annual basis as a result of inflation and rising product costs. However, G-PISD makes every effort to minimize these increases for our parents/families as much as possible. In the 2020-2021 school year, an adjustment between 30-40 cents would have been necessary to account for three years of lost revenue under the CEP program. However, the G-PISD School Board voted in favor of a minimal increase of only 10 cents, which will require supplemental funding from the District budget yet will allow the District to pass savings onto families in the year that meal pricing is restored following CEP.

Again, please keep in mind that applications for Free and Reduced-Price Meal program(s) for the 2020-21 school year will not be available online until July 1, 2020.

If you have additional questions, or need assistance complete an application on or after July 1st, please contact G-PISD Food & Nutrition Services at (361) 777-1098. Thank you.

G-PISD schools include: Gregory-Portland High School, Gregory-Portland Middle School, East Cliff Elementary School, Stephen F. Austin Elementary School, T.M. Clark Elementary School, and W.C. Andrews Elementary School.