

2026-2027 Learn DC Meal Charge Policy Public Notification Application for Free and

Reduced Price Meals

Our school participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and After School Snack Program (ASSP) and offers free or reduced priced meals to families who qualify. All families are encouraged to submit a meal application by the first week of school – one application per household is needed. Families can at any time submit a new application if there is a change in the household income or family household number. Applications can be accessed in the front office.

This notification, in order to be compliant with federal and local regulations, is required by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to notify the community (public) about the availability of LEARN D.C. Public Charter's meal program.

Meal Charge Policy

Families are strongly encouraged to pre-pay for meals on a regular and consistent basis, unless they qualify for free meals.

Families who do not qualify for free meals are expected to provide funds on a timely basis for their child to participate in the meal program. As a nonprofit organization we are dependent upon all funding to support our healthy meal program.

Parents will be notified via email of low balances or an exceeded charge limit, and will be expected to immediately submit a payment so that their child may continue to eat in the cafeteria. At any time, parents may also submit an application for free and reduced meals if the household is experiencing hardship.

Student Pricing

- Students who do not qualify for free or reduced-price meals must pay \$4.73 for lunch for K-6 and \$4.44 for PreK3-PreK4. Breakfast and snack are provided free of charge every school day.
- Students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals will be offered free breakfast, lunch, and snack every school day.

Payment Options

- Students or Parents may pay for meals at MyMealtime.com, or with cash. Instructions on how to access the online payment system can be found [here](#).

Payment Policies

- Students will not be denied meals for any reason, regardless of their meal debt.
- Students will be served reimbursable meals, not an alternative meal, regardless of their meal debt.
- No student will be overtly identified as receiving free or reduced-price meal benefits or as having delinquent debt.
- No action will be taken against the student in order to collect unpaid meal debt.

Dietary Needs

- Any students with food allergies must complete the dietary needs form accompanied by a physician's note, each school year. This form can be obtained through the main office.

Notification of the Meal Charge Policy

The meal charge policy will be provided in writing to all families at the start of each school year and to families transferring to the school midyear. The meal charge policy will also be provided to all school or district-level staff responsible for policy enforcement.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

District of Columbia Human Rights Act

Also, the District of Columbia Human Rights Act, approved December 13, 1977 (DC law 2-38; DC official code §2-1402.11(2006), as amended) states the following: It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice to do any of the following acts, wholly or partially for a discriminatory reason based upon the actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family responsibilities, genetic information, disability, matriculation, or political affiliation of any individual. To file a complaint alleging discrimination on one of these bases, please contact the District of Columbia's Office of Human Rights at (202) 727-4559 or ohr@dc.gov.