



TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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DONNA L. HILL

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS & FINANCE

September 10, 2020

Dear Parents,

The district would like to address some initial concerns that parents may have regarding meals for the upcoming school year, Tonawanda City Schools participate in the NYS Child Nutrition Program, which is inclusive of the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) that allows for free meals to all enrolled students in grades K-12.

Through our participation, the district agrees to follow all required program rules, procedures and guidelines. Unlike the school closure this past spring, the current guidance limits the flexibility the district has to operate while still meeting the required tracking by building and reporting of student data. Earlier, in the wake of the pandemic, many of these same mandates were lifted but are no longer valid at this time.

Understandably, this may have caused some initial confusion or frustration. Please note our concerns have been shared with NYS and it is our hope that updated guidance will be released soon. Until then we will continue to monitor and do our very best to serve all students and their families.

Please see recent FAQ's below:

Do Pre-K (UPK) students receive free meals?

NO. Pre K students are not part of the Child Nutrition Program and are not eligible for free meals at this time.

Are Homeschooled students eligible to obtain meals?

NO. Only registered students attending school as either a Remote Warrior or in a cohort in the Hybrid Model are eligible for meals at this time.

If I have children who attend school at different buildings, can I pick-up at one location?

YES! Parents with students in multiple buildings may now pick-up meals for all of their children at the Middle/High School Location (Door # 3). Please be prepared to provide the Food Service personnel with the names of all children and the building they attend before receiving meals. A manual tabulation and recording is required.

Can I pick up my child's meals at any location?

It is preferred that meals are picked up at the school your child attends. However, should you have a specific concern, please contact Crystal Kipa at (716) 694-7680 or ckipa@tonacsd.org.

Could there be changes to the Food Service Guidelines?

YES. Child Nutrition responded to the district's concerns yesterday, "We are working diligently to put guidance out to let schools know what their next steps are - hopefully sometime this week. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate through these changes."

Who should I contact if I have questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Crystal M. Kipa at (716) 694-7680 or ckipa@tonacsd.org.

Thank you for your continued support!

Donna Hill