Frequently Asked Questions About Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Grand Valley Local Schools offers healthy meals each school day. **Breakfast costs $1.50 for grades K-12 and lunch costs $2.95 for grades K-5, $3.05 for grades 6-8 and $3.20 9-12. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals.** Reduced price is **$0.30** for breakfast and **$0.40** for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced-price meal benefits and detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. **Who can receive free or reduced-price meals?** All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Ohio Works First (OWF); foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court; children participating in their school's Head Start program; and children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals. Also, your children may receive free or reduced-price meals if your household's income is within the federal income eligibility guidelines limits.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	$23,606	$1,968	$454
2	31,894	2,658	614
3	40,182	3,349	773
4	48,470	4,040	933
5	56,758	4,730	1,092
6	65,046	5,421	1,251
7	73,334	6,112	1,411
8	81,622	6,802	1,570
Each additional person:	8,288	691	160

2. **How do I know if my children qualify as homeless, migrant or runaway?** If members of your household lack a permanent address; are staying together in a shelter, hotel or other temporary housing arrangement; relocate on a seasonal basis or; children live with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household then the children may qualify as homeless, migrant or runaway. If you have not been told your children will receive free meals, please call or email **Jeanette Bower, Food Service Director, Phone : 440-805-4549, Email: jeanette.bower@grandvalley.school** to see if they qualify.

3. **Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Use one free and reduced-price school meal application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete. Please submit all required information. **Return the completed application to Jeanette Bower, Food Service Director, 111Grand Valley Avenue West, Orwell, OH 44076; Phone 440-805-4549.**

4. **Should I complete an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are approved already for free meals?** No, but please read the letter carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from the eligibility notification, contact **Jeanette Bower, Food Service Director, 111Grand Valley Avenue West, Orwell, OH 44076; Phone 440-805-4549 immediately**.

5. **My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to complete another application? Yes.** Your child's application is valid for that school year and for the start of this school year through **9/21/2020**. You are required to submit a new application unless the school notified you that your child is eligible for the new school year.

6. **I receive Women, Infants and Children (WIC) benefits. Can my child(ren) get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please submit a completed application.

7. **Will the information I give be checked?** Yes, we also may ask you to send written proof.

8. **If I do not qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced-price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.

9. **What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to the following contact person **Dr. William R. Nye, Jr., Superintendent, 111 Grand Valley Avenue West, Orwell OH 44076, Phone 440-805-4545 Ext. 4, option 1.**

10. **May I apply if someone else in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

11. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make $1,000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made $900, submit the report with the routine amount of $1,000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.

12. **What if some household members have no income to report?** Household members may not receive some types of income that are asked for you to report on the application or may not receive income at all. When this happens, please write a 0 in the corresponding field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those also will be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank.

13. **We are in the military. Do we report our income differently?** Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it also must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment also is excluded from income.

14. **What if there is not enough space on the application for my family?** List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your application. Contact **Jeanette Bower, 111 Grand Valley West, Orwell, OH 44076, 440-805-4545** to receive a second application.

15. **Why am I being asked to give my consent for an instructional fee waiver?** Ohio public schools are required to waive the school instructional fees for children that quality for free meal benefits. School food service personnel must have parent consent to share the student meal application if your child(ren) quality for a fee waiver. If you agree to allow your child(ren)'s meal application to be shared with school officials to see if they qualify for a fee waiver then select **yes** in part 5. If you do not wish for that information to be shared, then select **no** in part 5. Answering no to this question will mean your child will not be considered for a fee waiver. Answering this question either way will not change your child(ren)'s free or reduced-price meal eligibility.

16. **My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for Ohio SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 877-852-0010.

If you have other questions or need help, call **440-805-4545.**
Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono: **440-805-4545.**
Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero: **440-805-4545.**

Sincerely,
Jeanette Bower
Food Service Director/Supervisor

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING

A household member is any child or adult living with you.

IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES BENEFITS FROM THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) OR OHIO WORKS FIRST (OWF), FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

Part 1: List all household members and the school name and grade level for each child.
Part 2: List the 7-digit case number for any household member (including adults) receiving SNAP or OWF benefits.
Part 3: Skip this part.
Part 4: Skip this part.
Part 5: Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.
Part 6: Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are **not** necessary.
Part 7: We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

IF NO ONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD RECEIVES SNAP OR OWF BENEFITS AND IF ANY CHILD IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS HOMELESS, MIGRANT OR RUNAWAY, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

Part 1: List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child.
Part 2: Skip this part.
Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway, check the appropriate box and call **Jeanette Bower at 440-805-4545.** If not, skip this part.
Part 4: Complete only if a child in your household is not eligible under Part 3. See Instruction for all other households.
Part 5: Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.
Part 6: Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are **not** necessary if you did not need to complete in part 4.
Part 7: We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

IF YOU APPLY FOR A FOSTER CHILD, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

If <u>all</u> children in the household are foster children:

Part 1: List all foster children and the school name and grade level for each child. Check the box that indicates the child is a foster child.
Part 2: Skip this part.
Part 3: Skip this part.
Part 4: Skip this part.
Part 5: Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.
Part 6: Sign the form. The last four digits of a Social Security Number are **not** necessary.
Part 7: We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

If <u>some</u> children in the household are foster children:

Part 1: List all household members and the school name and school grade level for each child. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the "No Income" box. Check the box if the child is a foster child.
Part 2: If the household does not have a 7-digit SNAP or OWF case number, skip this part.
Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call **Jeanette Bower at 440-805-4549.** If not, skip this part.
Part 4: Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.

- **Box 1–Name:** List all household members with income.
- **Box 2 –Gross Income and how often it was received:** For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. Check the appropriate box to note how often the person receives the income - weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly. For earnings, list the gross income - not the take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned *before* taxes and other deductions and can be found on pay stubs. For other income, list the amount and check the box to note how often each person received assistance from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under *All Other Income*, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For ONLY the self-employed, report income after expenses under *Earnings from Work*. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or receive combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

Part 5: Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.
Part 6: Adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (or mark the box if he or she does not have one).

Part 7: We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS (INCLUDING WIC HOUSEHOLDS) FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

Part 1: List all household members and the school name and grade level for each child. For any person, including children, with no income, you must check the "No Income Box."

Part 2: If the household does not have a 7-digit SNAP or OWF case number, skip this part.

Part 3: If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call Jeanette Bower **at 440-805-4549.** If not, skip this part.

Part 4: Follow these instructions to report total household income from this month or last month.

- **Box 1 – Name:** List all household members with income.
- **Box 2 –Gross Income and how often it was received:** For each household member, list each type of income received for the month. Check the box to note how often the person receives the income - weekly, every other week, twice a month, or monthly. For earnings, be sure to list the gross income - not take-home pay. Gross income is the amount earned *before* taxes and other deductions and can be found on pay stubs. For other income, list the amount and check the box to note how often each person received assistance from welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's benefits (VA benefits), and disability benefits. Under *All Other Income*, list Worker's Compensation, unemployment or strike benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household and any other income. Do not include income from SNAP, FDPIR, WIC, federal education benefits and foster payments received by the family from the placing agency. For ONLY the self-employed, report income after expenses under *Earnings from Work*. This is for your business, farm, or rental property. If you are in the Military Privatized Housing Initiative or receive combat pay, do not include these allowances as income.

Part 5: Answer yes or no and sign your name if you would like the application to be checked by school officials to determine if the child(ren) qualifies for a school instructional fee waiver.

Part 6: An adult household member must sign the form and list the last four digits of their Social Security Number (or mark the box if he or she does not have one).

Part 7: We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

2020-2021 FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS APPLICATION

Part 1. ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Names of all household members (First, Middle Initial, Last)	Name of school and grade level for each child/or indicate "NA" if child is not in school. School	Grade	Check if a foster child (legal responsibility of welfare agency or court) *If all children listed below are foster children, skip to Part 5 to sign this form.	Check if No Income
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐

Part 2. BENEFITS: If any member of your household receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Ohio Works First (OWF) benefits, provide the name and 7-digit case number for the person who receives benefits and **skip to Part 5.** If no one receives these benefits, **skip to Part 3.**
NAME: _____ 7-DIGIT CASE NUMBER: _____

Part 3. If any child you are applying for is homeless, migrant, or a runaway check the appropriate box and call Jeanette Bower Food Service Supervisor at 440-805-4549. Homeless ☐ Migrant ☐ Runaway ☐

Part 4. TOTAL HOUSEHOLD GROSS INCOME (before deductions). List all income on the same line as the person who receives it. Check the box for how often it is received. Record each income only once.

1. NAME (List all household members with income)	2. GROSS INCOME AND HOW OFTEN IT WAS RECEIVED														
	Earnings from work before deductions	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Twice Monthly	Monthly	Welfare, child support, alimony	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Twice Monthly	Monthly	Pensions, retirement, Social Security, SSI, VA benefits	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Twice Monthly	Monthly	All Other Income (indicate frequency, such as "weekly" "monthly" "quarterly" "annually"
(Example) Jane Smith	$200	☒	☐	☐	☐	$150	☐	☒	☐	☐	$0	☐	☐	☐	☐	$50.00/ quarterly
	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	$_____/_____
	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	$_____/_____
	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	$_____/_____
	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	$_____/_____
	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	$	☐	☐	☐	☐	$_____/_____

Part 5. SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL FEE WAIVER ADULT CONSENT: Your child(ren) may qualify for a waiver of their school instructional fees. Your permission is required to share your meal application information with school officials to determine if your child(ren) qualifies for a fee waiver. Answering this question will not change whether your children will receive free or reduced-price meals.
Please check a box: ☐Yes, I agree to have my meal application used to determine if my child(ren) qualifies for a fee waiver.

☐ No, I do not agree to have my meal application used to determine if my child(ren) qualifies for a fee waiver.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Part 6. SIGNATURE AND LAST FOUR DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (ADULT MUST SIGN)

An adult household member must sign the application. **If Part 4 is completed, the adult signing the form must also list the last four digits of his or her Social Security Number or mark the "I do not have a Social Security Number" box.** (See Privacy Act Statement on the back of this page.)

I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the school will receive federal funds based on the information I give. I understand that school officials may verify (check) the information. I understand that deliberate misrepresentation of the information may cause my children to lose meal benefits and I may be subject to prosecution under state and federal statutes.

Sign here: X_____ Print name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Last four digits of your Social Security Number: _ _ _ _ ☐ I do not have a Social Security Number

Part 7. Children's ethnic and racial identities: We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

Choose one ethnicity:
☐ Hispanic/Latino
☐ Not Hispanic/Latino

Choose one or more (regardless of ethnicity):
☐ Asian ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Black or African American
☐ White ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

Do not complete this section. Intended for school use only.

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice A Month x 24, Monthly x 12

Total Income: _____ Per: ☐ Week, ☐ Every 2 Weeks, ☐ Twice per Month, ☐ Month, ☐ Year Household size: _____

Categorical Eligibility: ___ Date Withdrawn: _____ Eligibility: Free___ Reduced___ Denied___ Reason: _____

Determining/Approval Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Confirming Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Follow-up Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____

If selected for Verification, Date Verification Notice Sent:_____ Response Date: _____ 2nd Notice Sent: _____ Results Sent:_____

Verification Result: No Change _____ Free to Reduced Price _____ Free to Paid _____ Reduced Price to Free ____ Reduced Price to Paid ___

SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

To save you time and effort, the information you gave on your Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application may be shared with other programs for which your children may qualify. **For the following programs, we must have your permission to share your information. Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals.**

☐ No! I **DO NOT** want information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application shared with any of these programs.

☐ Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application **if my student(s) qualifies for a fee waiver for their school fees.**

☐ Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **the Guidance Counselor if my student(s) qualify for an ACT or SAT fee waiver, Advanced Placement Testing fee waiver, and/or college application fee waiver.**

If you checked yes to any or all of the boxes above, fill out the form below. Your information will be shared only with the programs you checked.

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

For more information, you may call **Jeanette Bower** at **440-805-4549**
Return this form to: 111 Grand Valley Avenue West, Orwell, OH 440476.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES 2020-2021			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	$23,606	$1,968	$454
2	31,894	2,658	614
3	40,182	3,349	773
4	48,470	4,040	933
5	56,758	4,730	1,092
6	65,046	5,421	1,251
7	73,334	6,112	1,411
8	81,622	6,802	1,570
Each additional person:	8,288	691	160

Privacy Act Statement: This explains how we will use the information you give us.
The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You are not required to provide information, but if information is not provided, the state agency cannot approve your child for free or reduced-price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Ohio Works First (OWF) case number or other identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

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, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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 Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: How to File a 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
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

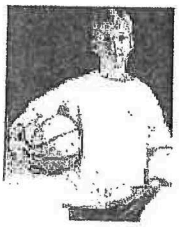
(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Healthy Start & Healthy Families

Does your child qualify for the School Meals Program? If so, your family may qualify for free health coverage!



Healthy Start & Healthy Families

Healthy Start offers free health care coverage for kids (birth to age 19) and pregnant women.

Healthy Families offers free health care coverage for the entire family - parents AND kids.

Healthy Start & Healthy Families Covers:

Doctor Visits
Hospital Care
Immunizations
Substance Abuse

Prescriptions
Vision Services
Dental Care
Mental Health

And Much More!

For more information or an application, call:

1-800-324-8680 (a free call!)

TDD 1-800-292-3572

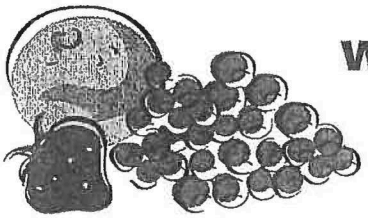
Monday - Friday 7 am to 8 pm
Saturday - Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm

Healthy Start

Your family's size and income determines if you and your family are eligible for Healthy Start or Healthy Families. Healthy Start & Healthy Families are Medicaid Programs administered by The Ohio Department of Job & Family Services.

START

your day the right way with School Breakfast!



School Breakfast will give you MORE energy, keep your body healthy and help improve your grades!

Grand Valley Local Schools

Breakfast Times:
High School and Middle School 7:30am
Elementary School at 8:30am

Prices:
Grades K-12 $1.50

Location Served:
Cafeteria

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Easily pay for school meals with MySchoolBucks

Automatic Payments

Simple & Secure

Low Balance Alerts

Get Started:

1. Go to myschoolbucks.com or download the app
2. Create an account & add your students
3. Pay with your credit/debit card

MySchoolBucks.com DOWNLOAD App Store Google Play GET SOCIAL

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Grand Valley Local Schools Food Service Department is committed to promoting healthy food choices for our students. We strive to maintain high nutritional standards while offering delicious and satisfying menu choices. Our meals are carefully planned to include a variety of foods, such as assorted fresh fruits, whole grains, and specific vegetable subgroups.

Ohio Senate Bill 210, the Healthy Choices for Healthy Children Act, became law on June 18, 2010. The law contains provisions to combat childhood obesity in the next several years by increasing students' physical activity and ensuring access to healthy meals and beverages at school.

With the changing regulations of this Bill, our district has created an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits, including offering healthy foods that comply with USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks nutrition standards. A variety of vegetables are offered daily by specific subgroup (dark green, red/orange, legumes, and starchy vegetables). Fluid milk is either unflavored and low-fat or flavored and fat-free. We've eliminated trans-fat from school meals and now require students to select a fruit or vegetable as a part of a complete meal. The meals that we provide are designed to meet specific calorie ranges for different age groups.

Our food service program strives to be financially self-supporting while providing all students affordable access to the varied and nutritious foods they need to be healthy and to learn well. When we have outstanding charges, it makes it more difficult for us to provide these fresh and healthy options to our students. You will find a copy of Grand Valley's new Breakfast and Lunch Charging Policy enclosed.

Please read over the enclosed policy. If you have any questions or extenuating circumstances, please contact Jeanette Bower at 440-805-4549.

We appreciate your understanding and hope that your student(s) are enjoying their lunchroom experience.

Thank you!

Jeanette Bower

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Grand Valley Local Schools

Breakfast and Lunch Charging Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish consistent meal account procedures throughout the district. The goals of this policy are:

- To ensure that all students have a healthy meal and that no child goes hungry.
- To treat all students with dignity and confidentiality in the serving line regarding meal accounts.
- To support positive and clear communication among staff, administrators, teachers, students and parents/guardians.
- To establish fair practices that can be used throughout the school district.
- To encourage parents/guardians to assume the responsibility of meal payments and to promote self-responsibility of the student.
- To establish a consistent practice regarding charges and collection of charges.

The following policy will apply regarding meal charges:

- **Students may not charge more than $15.00 to their account**
- **After their account is negative $15.00, they will still receive a breakfast or lunch, a phone call will be made to the parent/guardian**
- **If the parent/guardian fails to provide the student with a bagged lunch or lunch money after their account is negative $15.00, school district personnel may be asked to intercede on behalf of the student. The district may file a report with the Department of Child Protective Services or other appropriate agency.**
- At the end of the school year, a student's balance (whether positive or negative) will follow them to the next school year. Refunds of a positive balance for students leaving the district or graduating may be issued by making a request to the Food Service Supervisor.
- Cash and personal checks are accepted. To make a payment using ACH, credit card or debit card, please visit www.myschoolbucks.com.
- Parents may call the Food Service Supervisor at 440-805-4549 to check the balance of their student's account or the parent may go to www.myschoolbucks.com.
- Balance reports for students with negative account balances will be run monthly and mailed to the student's place of residence. Phone call reminders will be made monthly.
- Adults may not charge meals at any time.
- A la carte items may not be charged at any time.
- It is strongly encouraged that parents/guardians make meal payments in advance. We strongly discourage meal charges, but understand that an occasional emergency makes it necessary.

If you are unable to pay for school meals due to your economic situation, please contact Jeanette Bower, Food Service Supervisor, at 440-805-4549. Assistance may be available for you. Eligible recipients will receive the regular school breakfast and lunch for free or at a reduced cost.

Thank you.

Jeanette Bower
Food Service Supervisor
Grand Valley Local Schools
111 Grand Valley Ave. West
Orwell, OH 44076
440-805-4549

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

To save you time and effort, the information you gave on your Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application may be shared with other programs for which your children may qualify. **For the following programs, we must have your permission to share your information. Sending in this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals.**

☐ No! I **DO NOT** want information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application shared with any of these programs.

☐ Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application **if my student(s) qualifies for a fee waiver for their school fees.**

☐ Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application with **the Guidance Counselor if my student(s) qualify for an ACT or SAT fee waiver, Advanced Placement Testing fee waiver, and/or college application fee waiver.**

If you checked yes to any or all of the boxes above, fill out the form below. Your information will be shared only with the programs you checked.

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

For more information, you may call **Jeanette Bower** at **440-805-4549**
Return this form to: 111 Grand Valley Avenue West, Orwell, OH 440476.

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