



Taunton Schools Food Service
50 Williams Street
Taunton, Massachusetts 02780
Tel. (508) 821-1156
Fax 508 821-1103

Karen Pappa,
Director of Food Services

“SERVING EDUCATION EVERY DAY”

The Taunton School Food Service Program takes pride in serving nutritious meals daily to our students. We are firm believers that hungry students can't learn. Under no circumstance do we want a child to go without lunch. We understand that parents are busy and may occasionally forget to pack a lunch or send in money; however the number of students with a negative balance has grown significantly over the past couple of years. As you know, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to provide students with lunch or a means to pay for meals.

The school food service program, which strives to be self-funded, operates in a financially responsible manner. Paid students who owe \$10.00 or reduced students who owe \$2.00 (5 lunches) and need lunch but don't have money will no longer be allowed to charge a lunch to their account. Students will be provided a ham and cheese sandwich, featured vegetable, apple & white milk. The cost to the student for this substitute meal will be \$2.00, and will be added to the student's outstanding balance. Charging for breakfast is never allowed. The ability to not charge will remain in effect until the student's lunch balance has been paid.

Students who owe money may purchase regular meals if they have money in hand to pay for it. Students who owe money will not be allowed to purchase from the snack bar. The outstanding debt is still expected to be paid promptly. Also, students who have reached their credit limit may be prohibited from attending or participating in extracurricular activities or school sponsored events.

Payment Methods:

- Eligibility to receive free or reduced meals requires review and approval from the Food Service Office. Please contact the Food Service Director or the district's web site to access an application. Applications are accepted throughout the school year on a rolling basis. Please note you are responsible for providing lunch or money until you receive approval from the Food Service Office.
- Check or money order made out to "Taunton School Food Services." Please put the child's name on the memo line.
- Online payment via www.myschoolbucks.com or through the district web site at www.tauntonschools.org (Food Services).

Also, it has been brought to our attention that many parents are not aware that their child has been charging meals and accruing a negative lunch balance. If you do not wish for your child to be able to charge meals, please complete and return the OPT OUT form which is attached.

Again, if you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 508-821-1156 Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Karen Pappa
Director of Food Services

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**TAUNTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Taunton Food Service - Opt Out Form 2018-2019 School Year

Information Request

This opt out form must be filled out if a parent/guardian **does not** want your child charging a school lunch to his/her account. If you do not file an Opt Out form and your child charges school lunch, you will be liable for the cost. If at any time you would like to re-active your status to make purchases, please contact the Food Service Office at (508) 821-1156 and we will process your request.

Parents/Guardian are encouraged to complete a Free/Reduced Lunch Application or setup an online payment account via Nutrikids at www.myschoolbucks.com

Student Name: _____

Student School: _____

Parent Comments: _____

Parent Signature & Date: _____

**This form can be returned to the Main Office/Cafeteria Supervisor at your child's school
or sent to the Food Service Department as follows:**

Mail: Taunton Public School Food Service Department 50 Williams Street Taunton, MA 02480

Fax: Attention TPS Food Service Department (508-821-1103)

Taunton Public Schools Food Service Department - Use Only

- Received by & Date: _____
- Entered into NutriKids foodservice management system: _____

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not submit all needed information, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the primary wage earner or other adult household member who signs the application. 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), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR 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.

Non-Discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

"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: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, 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.

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