



School Meal Information

Meal Service Provider

Sikeston R-6 is pleased to announce that Aramark will again be providing student meals in the 2017-2018 school year. Aramark's focus is on helping nurture students overall wellbeing and growth with nutritious menus; innovative, student-inspired dining environments; and wellness education that supports student achievement.

Meal Charges

Included with this letter is a copy of Sikeston R-6 Administrative Procedure EF-AP1 - read closely. This procedure, effective July 1, 2017, is compliant with rules implemented by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. It allows for students to charge up to ten meals. Alternative meals will be provided to students who have charged in excess of ten meals. The District may implement intervention procedures defined in the attached procedure beginning after five meal charges.

Parents who are having difficulty paying for student meals are encouraged to complete a free and reduced meal price application which are available at any school office.

Student Meal Account Balances

Each student has an individual meal account in the food service software program. Payments are deposited to the account and meals/food items purchased by the students are charged to the account. This process establishes a running balance for each student on a daily basis.

Parents who are registered for Parent Portal may check account balances at any time. If you are not registered for parent portal we highly encourage you to get a form from the building secretary where your child is enrolled.

Parent portal also gives you the capability to make online lunch deposits. Parents are encouraged to deposit payments to their student's account prior to receiving a negative balance notice. Payment methods include cash, check or PayPal via the parent portal. Online payments are immediate and can be made at any time.

Automated phone calls are made weekly for students whose balance is negative. Parents are responsible for all negative balances and should ensure that these are corrected in a timely manner.

If a check is returned to the district for insufficient funds, the deposit amount recorded to the student's meal account on the day the check was received will be removed from the account and the account balance will be reduced. Parents will be notified when checks are returned.

Parents are welcome to make inquiries on meal account deposits, as well as, details on the purchases being made by their student - see contact information listed on the back of this letter. Deposit envelopes are available for all students to pick up at their schools. Parents can also make payments at the Board of Education Office - 1002 Virginia Street - downstairs entrance at the back of the building.

<u>Meal Prices</u>	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>
Reduced Price (all grades)	30¢	40¢
Pre-K thru 4 th - Full Price	\$1.65	\$2.30
5 th Grade thru 8 th - Full Price	\$1.80	\$2.55
9 th Grade thru 12 th - Full Price	\$1.80	\$2.55

(Please see back of sheet for additional Information)

Ala-Carte Purchases

Elementary grade levels will be able to purchase additional milk at breakfast and lunch. Other grade levels will have the opportunity to purchase a variety of items that are separate from the daily menu. Entrée items such as sandwiches or pizza can be purchased separately at the secondary schools. Entrée items will range in price.

Parents should note that purchasing individual items such as one slice of pizza can be much more costly than buying a variety of items that can be grouped together as a complete meal. Cashiers in the schools can assist students in learning how to pick items that will meet a meal pattern that will be cheaper for parents and much healthier for students.

Various side items will be available for purchase in the secondary schools. Individual ala-carte purchases can only be made if sufficient money is in the student's account.

Ala-carte purchases do not qualify under the free and reduced meal program; therefore, students who qualify under this program will need money in their meal account if they wish to purchase any extra items.

Free and Reduced Applications

All students will receive a free and reduced application meal form either in their back to school packet or the form will be sent home with the student on the first day of school. These forms can also be printed from the online registration link. The application process is based on the total income of persons living in the household and the number of individuals residing in the household. Students who qualify for free meals must be notified within 10 working days of the application date. During the 10 day approval period, parents are responsible for paying for school meals. Care should be taken when completing the application, failure to complete the form properly will delay the approval process. Instructions are provided with the form.

Common mistakes include failing to sign the form, omission of the social security number, and incomplete income information. Students who qualify for reduced meals (see rates above) must have sufficient money in their meal accounts to cover the cost of the reduced meals. The income guidelines change yearly and a new application is required each school year. Students who attended Sikeston schools in the previous year and qualified for free or reduced meals are covered by the old application for the first 30 school days. **The last day students will be covered on the old application will be September 28, 2017.** New applications for these students must be approved and on file prior to September 28, 2017 or their status will be changed and they will be required to pay full price for all meals. Some students are automatically qualified for free meals by the State of Missouri by a direct certification process. Students who qualify for free meals by this process will receive notification letters prior to the first day of school and will not be required to complete a meal form.

Wellness Policy

Sikeston R-6 adopted a new wellness policy in June 2017 to be compliant with USDA regulations. If you are interested in serving on the wellness committee please contact Lori Boardman at 573-472-2581 or email at lboardman@sikeston.k12.mo.us. As part of the new policy, parents are encouraged to consider bringing healthy food choices or non-food rewards to classroom parties or other events that occur during the school day. Visit the school website for additional information on the wellness policy.

Contact Information

Aramark Office: 573-472-8881

Board of Education Office - Food Services Division - 573-472-2581

Free and Reduced Meal Application Form questions should be directed to Tammy Taylor or Lori Boardman at the Board of Education Office - 573-472-2581.