



## School Meal Information

### Meal Service Provider

Sikeston R-6 is pleased to announce that Aramark will again be providing student meals in the 2018-2019 school year. Aramark's focus is on helping nurture the student's overall wellbeing and growth with nutritious menus; innovative, student-inspired dining environments; and wellness education that supports student achievement.

### Food Service Policies

Aramark must follow policy set by the Sikeston R-6 Board of Education. The Board has set policy regarding meal account balances and a copy of those procedures are included as part of this packet.

### Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) - new for 2018-2019

The Pre-K/Kindergarten Center, all elementary buildings, and the Sikeston Alternative School will be participating in CEP for the 2018-2019 school year - this program provides free breakfast and lunch to all students enrolled at those sites. Additional information on this provision is included in this packet.

### Student Meal Accounts

Each student has an individual meal account established for them in the food service software program. Payments are recorded as deposits and the account is credited when meals are purchased.

Payment methods include cash, checks or PayPal via the parent portal.

Parents are welcome to make inquiries on meal account deposits, as well as, details on student purchases.

Deposit envelopes are available for all students at their school. Parents are encouraged to use the envelopes provided and to complete the information requested on the front of the envelopes. These envelopes help reduce the possibility of lost money and provide an extra record of the money sent for deposit.

PayPal payments made online through Parent Portal are instantly applied to your student's meal account.

### Meal Account Balances

Parents who are registered for Parent Portal may check meal balances at any time. If you are not registered for Parent Portal, we encourage you to get a form from the building secretary at your child's school. Parent Portal also gives you the capability to make online lunch deposits. SIS phone calls are made weekly for students whose balance is negative. Students who exceed the meal balance account levels set by the Board of Education will not be allowed to purchase a meal. Parents are responsible for all negative balances and should ensure that these are corrected in a timely manner. If a student's account balance falls below the amount set in policy, the student will not be able to purchase regular lunch for the day nor will they be allowed to purchase any ala-carte (extra) items until additional money is deposited.

Students enrolled in CEP schools will need money in their account for ala-carte purchases and extra milk.

### Alternate Meals

Students who do not have balances to cover meal purchases will be served an alternate meal consisting of a peanut butter or cheese sandwich and milk. This alternate meal ensures that the students are not hungry for the remainder of the school day. We encourage parents to keep a close watch on account balances to ensure that students do not have to receive the alternate meal.

*(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 students account.

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

<u>Meal Prices for non-CEP schools</u>	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>
Reduced Price - Grades 5-12	30¢	40¢
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade thru 12 <sup>th</sup> - Full Price	\$1.80	\$2.65

### Free and Reduced Applications

Students at non-CEP schools 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 26, 2018.** New applications for these students must be approved and on file prior to September 26, 2018 or their status will be changed and they will be required to pay full price for all meals. Students may automatically qualify for free meals through the State of Missouri 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.

Students in CEP schools will not be required to complete an application for the 2018-2019 year.

### Contact Information

Aramark Office: 573-472-8881

Sikeston R-6 Food Services: 573-472-2581

Food Service Director - Nathan Downing

Contacts: Lori Boardman/Tammy Taylor

Free and Reduced Meal Application Form questions should be directed to Tammy Taylor or Lori Boardman

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.