

July 2007

Dear Albuquerque Public School Parents:

As we near the start of the 2007-2008 school year, I would like to welcome you and your child back and thank you for your continued support of Albuquerque Public Schools. This letter is to inform you of changes the APS school district has to make to ensure that we are following all of the guidelines required for a federal food services program.

Because of increases in fuel, food and personnel costs, the price of school meals will increase for the 2007-2008 school year. Last April the APS Board of Education approved a price increase for school meals for the first time in 10 years.

Here is how the prices break down.

Breakfast	Old	New
Elementary	\$.75	\$1.00
Middle and High	\$1.00	\$1.00
Reduced	\$.25	\$.30
Adult	\$1.00	\$1.75

Lunch	Old	New
Elementary	\$1.40	\$1.60
Middle and High	\$1.50	\$1.75
Reduced	\$.40	\$.40
Second Meal	\$2.00	\$2.25

I would like to encourage you to take the time to apply for free and reduced price meals if appropriate for your family. Applications are available from each school's office or cafeteria manager. Applications include the financial guidelines for qualification. You may also call 345-5661, extension 37030 to have an application mailed to you. If you have more than one child, list each child on one application in the area designated on the form. This will eliminate your need to fill out multiple application forms.

There are also some great additional benefits for qualifying for free or reduced price meals that include tuition waiver of up to \$75 for summer school, and tuition discounts for the UNM Music Prep Program, Explora Museum summer camp, and City of Albuquerque after-school programs. You will also receive discounted spaying and neutering of dogs and cats.

If you do not qualify for subsidized meals you are responsible for providing either a meal or the money to pay for a meal for your student. If you qualify for reduced price meals you are responsible for providing money to pay for your portion of the meal.

We encourage you to prepay for meals and all of our school cafeterias accept checks, money orders or cash at the school cafeteria. For your convenience you may prepay meals online with a credit or debit card at www.mylunchmoney.com.

In accordance with APS Board of Education policy, each school will have a plan for making accommodations for students who have forgotten their lunch money or who are waiting to see if they qualify for free or reduced price lunches. This will be used for occasional (emergency) charges only. To help you keep track of your student's account we will be utilizing an automated calling system to inform you when your student has charged a meal. Please make sure the phone number provided to the school is accurate so you do not miss these important messages. Additionally, school administrators will be notified by cafeteria staff if charges get above \$10 at the elementary level and \$5 in the middle and high school levels. Any unpaid charges will be handled in the same manner as library fines or lost book fines.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to make sure that your student is getting a nutritious breakfast each morning. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day and it helps students learn and become more active during the day. Please make sure your student either eats breakfast at home or at school. If you have any questions or concerns please call the APS School and Community Service Center at 855-9040.

Sincerely,

Mary Swift RD, LD, SNS
APS Director, Food and Nutrition Services