

**Osage Co. R-I**

**LETTER TO HOUSEHOLDS  
SY 2025-26**

**Community Eligibility Provision**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Osage Co. R-I is participating in a Free Breakfast and Lunch Program for the current school year. This alternative is referred to as the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). If your children attend Osage Co. R-I, breakfast and lunch will be available to them at no charge. Household applications for free and reduced price meals will not be collected.

Studies have shown that children who are not hungry perform better in school. By providing school meals to all children at no charge, we are hoping to create a better learning environment for our students.

The school breakfast and lunch that we serve follow U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for healthy school meals. The School Breakfast and Lunch Programs cannot succeed without your support. Please encourage your children to participate in the school meal programs. Meals will be served to all students at no charge regardless of the eligibility status.

If you have any questions about the program please feel free to contact us at (phone #).

Sincerely,

Lyle Best, Superintendent

**P 5550 Meal Charges**

The purpose of this policy is to maintain consistent meal account procedures throughout the District. Unpaid charges place a financial strain on District finances. The Food Service Department is responsible for maintaining food charge records and for notifying the District's accounting department of outstanding balances.

**Administration**

1. Student Groups:
  - Elementary students will be allowed to charge a maximum of ten (\$10.00) dollars.
    - a. These meals will include only the menu items of the reimbursable meal.
    - b. After the balance exceeds ten (\$10.00) dollars, the student may be given a designated menu alternate.
  - Middle School students will be allowed to charge a maximum of ten (\$10.00) dollars. After this maximum has been met, no additional charges will be accepted.
  - High School students will be allowed to charge one meal.
2. No charges will be allowed for ala carte foods and beverages.

3. Parents/guardians of students with negative balances will be contacted electronically, by correspondence, by phone call by the District Accounting Office, or by the Food Service Department.
4. On May 15 annually all charging will be cut off.
  - o Parents/guardians will be sent a written request for “payment in full.”
  - o All charges not paid before the end of the school year will be carried forward into the next school year.
  - o Graduating seniors must pay all charges in full. Failure to do so may result in the delinquent student being denied participation in graduation ceremonies.
5. If a financial hardship is suspected, families will be encouraged to apply for free/reduced meals at any time during the school year.
6. Each building principal will send a letter to all parents on or before the first day of school notifying them of the requirements of this policy. This policy will also be published on the District’s website.

### **Milk Break**

Kindergarten will have milk break each afternoon. The cost is \$0.50\* (subject to change) per carton and can be deducted from the lunch account. Milk break is not part of the free and reduced meal benefit plan and students who qualify for free or reduced meals are, therefore, responsible for the cost of milk break. If you do not want your child to participate in this, please let his/her teacher know at the beginning of school.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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; or

**2. fax:**

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

**3. email:**

[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.