

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding School Lunch

We hope this document brings some clarification regarding school lunch.

1. Is it true my family does not need to financially qualify for free meals for my children to receive them?
 - This is correct, there are no income restrictions at this time. It is a way to help all families during these difficult times. This program is approved by the USDA through December 31, 2020 and could potentially be extended for the whole school year.
2. Does the food service program get “more funding” if we have our children participate?
 - Future funding is dependent on meals served, however, the USDA understands that these are unusual circumstances. Children participating in the lunch program allows our wonderful team the ability to do what they love to do - serve children lunch!
3. Should we participate just to help get more funding?
 - No. This is an opportunity for all to access lunch to make life easier and less stressful for families at this time. If you and your children are interested in utilizing our program that is great - it certainly helps us. If you have no interest in having your children participate that is completely fine too!
4. I know I do not qualify for free and reduced lunch and would still like to participate. Do I need to fill out the Free and reduced lunch form?
 - No - the application was included in the letter as a way to encourage those who may qualify to be prepared if this program ends.
5. Can my children just receive free meals at school on the days they are in school and not do home delivery? We are good at home but I would like them to have the meals at school.
 - Yes! They can participate on one or all days they are in school - no need to register online.
6. Do I need to sign up ahead of time for in-school lunches?
 - No. In school, teachers will simply take a quick count in the morning to let our staff know how many children will be getting lunches.
7. If we get the meal kit on Wednesdays does that mean my children cannot get meals in school on the days they are in school?
 - No. Families can receive both - meal kit on Wednesdays as well as meals in school.
8. Can you accommodate my child's allergies or special dietary needs?

- We are tree nut and peanut free and can work with other allergies in school and at home. We have gluten free options as well.

9. What is in the home meal kit?

- The kit will contain assorted items that may include ready to eat items like sandwiches, ready to heat items that are frozen like pizza, defrost and eat items like muffins, juice, milk, fresh fruit, dried fruit, cereal, breakfast bars, frozen pancakes.

10. How does the at home delivery work? Who is it for?

- All meals will be delivered on Wednesdays. This is for those who are completely learning remote, Hybrid learning, and those currently enrolled in school (possibly younger siblings). Therefore families can get these meal kits even if children are in school on some days.

11. How long will home delivery last? Is there another way I can get my meal kit?

- We will continue home delivery as long as possible. If we exceed the capability of our drivers we may need to switch to meal pick up sites. At this time, we only have delivery of meal kits. However, like all things now, this could change and we could add meal pick up sites in the future.

12. Can I cancel the delivery if I decide I do not want it anymore - how do I cancel?

- Yes! You can cancel anytime. Please email: schoollunch@arlington.k12.ma.us or call 781-316-3643

13. It says children 0-18 does that mean I can request a meal for my 3-year old not in school yet?

- Yes! All children 18 and under.

14. Can my child bring lunch from home? Can my child bring lunch from home on some days and get school lunch other days?

- Yes! It is up to the family and their children.

15. My child is usually "Directly Certified" from the State to receive lunches. Now that everyone is eligible for free will I still receive my letter?

- Yes, these letters are delayed but will be sent home shortly.