



Food Service Information Overview

2018 – 2019 School Year

The Austintown Schools Food Service Department is a self-funded entity. Our success comes from your support!

Contact Information

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Please visit our website for further information

Student Cafeteria Accounts

Each student in the Austintown School District has a student ID number and cafeteria account that was created during the enrollment process. This number can be obtained through Progress Book or by contacting your building secretary. Students will enter their student ID number on a keypad to access their account in the cafeteria. AES and AIS students will also be enrolled into our finger scanning system and can choose to scan or use the keypad. Money may be prepaid on a student's account, or students may use cash in the lunch line. It is the parent's responsibility to provide lunch money. We ask parents to help their younger students learn their ID numbers.

NEW! Menus and Pricing

Each school develops a monthly menu while considering age appropriate options and variety. Lunch/Breakfast prices are based on a complete meal (see Offer vs. Serve). The 2018-2019 meal and component prices are as follows:

| <u>School</u> | <u>Lunch</u> | <u>Breakfast</u> | <u>Milk</u> | <u>Entrée</u> | <u>Side</u> | <u>WAM*</u> |
|---------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Fitch High School | \$3.00 | \$1.50 | \$0.50 | \$2.00/\$1.75 | \$0.50 | \$1.00 |
| Middle School | \$2.85 | \$1.50 | \$0.50 | \$2.00/\$1.75 | \$0.50 | \$1.00 |
| Intermediate School | \$2.85 | \$1.50 | \$0.50 | \$2.00/\$1.75 | \$0.50 | \$1.00 |
| Elementary School | \$2.50 | \$1.50 | \$0.50 | \$2.00/\$1.75 | \$0.50 | \$1.00 |

*WAM stands for "with a meal". If your child would like a second entrée, the price is \$1.00 as long as they also purchase a complete meal.

Visit **AFFoodServices.com**, on your computer or smartphone, to access monthly Breakfast and Lunch Menus. Online menus are now interactive and display nutrition and allergen information by simply hovering over or selecting menu items. You can also have the menus emailed to you monthly by signing up for the Going Green Menus option on our website.

NEW! Charging Meals

Please see page 6 and 7 and visit **AFFoodServices.com** to see our full **Unpaid Meal Charge Policy**.

In summary, Austintown Schools wishes not to deny meals to students who are unable to pay. However, as a self-funded operation, we cannot incur meal debt. In the case that a student has forgotten their packed lunch or lunch money, students will be able to charge the equivalent of 1 week worth of meals in the cafeteria. Once this limit is met, an alternate meal will be served to K-8 students. Grade 9-12 students will not be given an alternate meal. Extras are never allowed to be charged.

The district will make repeated effort to notify parents of accumulated debt in an effort to collect payment. All charges on a cafeteria account are the responsibility of the parent, regardless of eligibility status. Meal debt accumulates and carries with a student throughout their enrollment with the district. It is considered a school fee and certain privileges will be revoked if meal debt is not paid in full.

Offer vs. Serve & School Breakfast and Lunch Programs

Austintown Local Schools offer breakfast and lunch each day in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA recognizes 5 food groups important at each meal: grains, meat/meat alternatives, fruit, vegetable, and dairy. Each of our schools participates in Offer vs. Serve, where our students select each component of the meal they want instead of our staff serving the whole meal. Students must select at least 3 components (with at least one fruit/vegetable component) to create a complete meal. Our staff is here to guide students on selecting a complete meal.

Restricting Cafeteria Purchases

We do not limit what your child can purchase, so long as they have a positive balance in their account. We do refuse the sale of extras if students have meal debt on their account. If a parent would like to restrict purchases or set a purchase limit on their student's account, they need to call the Food Service Office directly at (330) 797-3900 ext. 2032.

NEW! Free and Reduced Price Meals

LUNCHAPPLICATION.COM

Visit the website above to apply for free and reduced price meal benefits online. Use your computer, tablet, or smartphone. We will not be distributing paper applications in 2018-2019. Applying online is quicker and more efficient for families and for our district. You are welcome to use our AELC facilities to apply - Austintown Early Learning Center (old Lynn Kirk). Paper applications can be requested from your building secretary or the Food Service Office at AELC.

We encourage all our Falcon Families to apply for meal benefits. Free and reduced price meal benefit applications are only good for one school year so you MUST apply EACH SCHOOL YEAR, regardless of eligibility the previous year.

You will be notified via postal mail on your eligibility for these benefits once the application is processed. Ultimately, it is the family's responsibility to ensure we received your application – let us know if you don't hear from us.

Until the application is approved, you agree to pay the full price for meals served in the cafeteria or pack a lunch for your child. Families are responsible for ALL meal charges that occur before an application is approved. Your eligibility DOES NOT back date or cover the cost of charged meals, so be sure to apply promptly.

NEW! Bonus Meals, Account Information, and Payments

K12PaymentCenter.com

We encourage parents to utilize K-12 Payment Center. Creating an account is free and gives you access to set up low balance email and text alerts, view meal history, and transfer funds between your student accounts.

This year the Food Service Department is covering all transaction fees for electronic prepayments made through K12PaymentCenter.com in August and September 2018. The normal transaction fee is \$1.95 per transaction. We will also offer 5% bonus credit for prepayments, several times throughout the school year. This means students will get additional free money in their lunch account to purchase meals in the cafeteria. We will notify parents via email, social media, Falcon Nation, and OneCall Now of these bonus opportunities, so be sure we have your updated contact information.

Making Payments

Pay online at K12PaymentCenter.com or send cash or check in a sealed envelope labeled "Lunch Money" with their student ID number and full name to their school cafeteria. Make checks payable to the school cafeteria, for example: FHS Cafeteria.

NEW! Food Allergies

*Please see page 5 and visit AFFoodServices.com to see our full **Food Service: Food Allergy Information** sheet.*

Food Services works with the school clinic to update food allergy information from the **Emergency Medical Form** annually. Life-threatening food allergies are observed with proper documentation. Food preferences and substitutions are not observed. Each cafeteria offers several menu choices for our students for each meal component. Please call our office to discuss the specific allergies of your student.