



# LEAKE COUNTY

## School District

### Office of Child Nutrition

Phone: 601-267-3936

**Subject:** Important Update: Changes to School Meal Funding and Application Process

Dear Parents, Students, and Members of the Leake County School District Community,

We want to inform you about a change to how our district funds school meals. After careful consideration, the Leake County School District's Office of Nutrition has decided not to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the National School Lunch Program going forward.

Starting Monday, January 12, 2026, our district will begin using Provision 2. As a result, every family will now need to complete a school meal application in order for students to receive meals through the program. Under provision 2, every student will still eat free, but every household has to complete a meal application. **If an application is not completed, every student in the household will be charged full price for all meals.** While this change requires a bit more paperwork, it serves two key purposes. First, it helps us manage program resources more effectively so we can keep providing healthy, nutritious food to our students. Second, and just as important, collecting meal applications gives us more accurate data about student needs—and that data often translates into increased eligibility for state and federal education funding. The more accurate our information, the more support we can receive for resources, programs, and even direct classroom funding across our schools.

We know changes like this can feel overwhelming, but we're committed to making this transition as smooth as possible. In the coming weeks, you'll receive step-by-step instructions on how to fill out the lunch application, plus extra support if you need it.

Our mission hasn't changed: every child in our district deserves access to healthy, affordable meals. If you have questions or would like help with the application process, please reach out to the Office of Nutrition at 601-267-3936.

Thank you for your cooperation and support as we make this shift to better serve our students and schools.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of the name "Sam McLaurin".

Sam McLaurin  
Director of School Nutrition