



FREE Meals Announcement for USD 464 Families

Dear Parent/Guardian:

USD 464 Student Nutrition Department has exciting news to share with our families.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that schools may extend the free meals program that our district participated in throughout the summer.

This announcement means that **all students** enrolled in USD 464 will receive **FREE** meals regardless of eligibility status beginning Tuesday, September 8. This includes meals for students who are enrolled in our optional remote learning model.

The USDA stated that this program extension of free meals for all students will be available through December 31, 2020, or until allocated Federal funding is depleted, whichever is sooner. We will continue to keep families updated if this occurs before December 31. Once the program ends, we will be required to return to charging students by eligibility status (paid, reduced, free) to allow time for families to add funds to student meal accounts as needed.

Due to the limited time we anticipate funding may be available, it is important that families continue to submit updated free/reduced meal applications if there are any changes in household size or income. Applications are accepted throughout the school year and, if approved, are effective through the last day of the 2020-2021 school year. In addition, household must still apply for meal benefits to be eligible for other USD 464 discounts (fees, transportation, summer school, ACT/PST). Applications and instructions for applying can be found on <https://tongiestudentcafe.com/index.php?sid=2007151608161758&page=lunchapps>

Please note we are only able to provide free meals to students who are enrolled in USD 464 at this time and will only be provided as a complete meal per program guidelines. All extra items, including milk to accompany a lunch brought from home or ala carte, are not included in this program. Students must have sufficient funds available in their food service accounts in order to purchase extra items.

Remote learning families were sent an email with the link to pre-order free meal kits. Pre-orders for this week will be due by Monday September 7 by 5 pm, ALL OTHERS WILL BE DUE EVERY SUNDAY BY 9 PM. Pick up for the 1st week of meal will be Wednesday, September 9 between 11:00am – 12:30 pm at location of your choice and then every Wednesday after that. NOTE: To complete your order you must know your student's ID number (which is their lunch number). Link to pre-order form: [Remote Food Ordering](#)

Children **do not** need to be present to pick up meals. However, documentation is required when picking up meals. After an online order is submitted, a confirmation response email is sent. Each parent/guardian must show their confirmation email either by printing it off or on their phone in order to receive meals without their child(ren) being present.

If you have any questions or need assistance with this process, please contact our office during normal business hours at 913-416-1400 or via email bsmith2@tong464.org. We appreciate this opportunity to continue to serve your family.

Barb Smith
Student Nutrition Director