

Pickens County School District  
July 2020

*School Nutrition*  
*Revised 7/20/20*



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

*If you do not find the information you need in this document, please contact the central office at 706-253-1700. This information is subject to change based on guidance from the Department of Public Health (DPH) and other health officials.*

### School Nutrition

**1. Where will my child eat lunch?**

Schools will vary based on the number of students in attendance and how many can safely be accommodated in the cafeteria and meet the social distancing requirement. In general, we will split the population at each school with half of the students in each lunch period; on a rotating pattern eating in the cafeteria and half eating in the classroom or outside, weather permitting.

All students will have the opportunity to come through the serving line to select their meal choices. Cafeteria meals will be available in to-go bags or trays for students eating in the classroom. *Your child's school will share specific plans with you before school starts.*

**2. Where will my child eat breakfast?**

Schools will vary on locations for where breakfast meal service is located and where students eat breakfast. In most schools, students will either be able to eat breakfast in the cafeteria, with social distancing measures in place, or pick up a grab-n-go breakfast bag on the way to their classrooms and eat there. *Your child's school will share specific plans with you before school starts.*

**3. What extra steps are you taking to create a safe cafeteria environment?**

All School Nutrition Staff, who are already trained in food handling safety, will follow increased safety measures. Cafeteria staff will be wearing masks and gloves at all times when serving customers. Cafeteria employees will be asked to check their temperatures prior to their shifts.

Plexiglass shields will be installed on all cashier point-of-sale stations to enhance safety. In locations where there is cross traffic of students entering or exiting the serving lines, mobile Plexiglas partitions will be set-up.

All menu items will be individually packaged for students to choose as they walk through the serving line. This will be for both meals eaten in the cafeteria, as well as meals taken to the classroom for dining.

The breakfast and lunch menus will be modified to feature only one hot and one cold entrée option each day to accelerate quicker meal service for students coming through the line.

**4. Will water fountains be in use in the cafeteria?**

Water fountains that have the bottle-filler feature will still be in operation at the school. We do strongly encourage water bottles be sent with students to stay hydrated throughout the day. In the cafeteria, students will be provided with a cup of water upon request.

**5. What interaction will students have with the cashier when the meal is accounted for?**

All student interactions at the cashier will be hands-free. Students will not enter their Student ID number on the pin pad.

Elementary Schools

At breakfast, students will tell the cashier their name or Student ID number, and the cashier will enter it on the Point of Sale touch screen. At lunch, students come through by homeroom so the cashier will bring up the homeroom on the Point-of-Sale screen and click on each student that picks up a meal.

Secondary Schools

Barcode Scanners will be in place in the cafeteria at all secondary schools at Point-of-Sale for meal service. Students will be issued a meal card containing a bar code with their Student ID. Students will position their meal card at the laser scanner for the cashier to enter their meal at Point-of-Sale. If a student forgets to bring their meal card, they can tell the cashier their name and/or Student ID number and the cashier will key that information into the Point-of-Sale touch screen.

**6. How will students pay for meals?**

We encourage parents/guardians to pay for meals in advance when possible through MyPaymentsPlus our online meal payment system. Parents will need their child's Student ID to set-up an account. The link is here: <https://www.mypaymentsplus.com/welcome>

We will continue to accept cash or check payment at the school, however we ask that the money/check be sent in an envelope with the student's name, Student ID and the amount enclosed on the outside. At elementary schools, teachers will collect all student prepayments each morning and send them to the cafeteria manager prior to the lunch meal service so that students do not have to bring the money to the lunch room. This helps to speed up the serving line to enable students to quickly pick up their meals.

For secondary students, although we encourage payment in advance through MyPaymentsPlus, we will accept payment at the Point-of-Sale from the student. We do request the money be put in an envelope with the student's name, Student ID number and amount enclosed, written on the outside. This will help to minimize the handling of currency for students, and enable the cashier to quickly post the payment to the student's account.

**7. Will I be permitted to eat breakfast or lunch with my child at school?**

Until further guidance is received from the Department of Public Health (DPH), visitors will not be allowed to eat with students.

**8. What additional safety measures will be implemented when students come to the cafeteria for lunch?**

Handwashing for students will be encouraged prior to and after meals. Additionally, there will be hand sanitizer stations set-up at the entrance to each cafeteria for students to use prior to coming through the serving line.

Added cafeteria safety measures include utilization of paper/plastic products and prepackaged flatware and napkins. Condiments will be available upon request at the Cashier Point-of-Service stations.

There will be increased distancing in serving and seating, and increased cleaning and sanitation of all frequently touched surfaces.

**Virtual School Setting or Distance Learning Model**

**9. If my student is enrolled in the Pickens County Virtual School option can they still get school meals?**

An online order system will be set up for families that want to pre-order meals for weekly pick up at their child's school. Meals will need to be paid for in advance. More details on this service will be provided to the families/households that enroll in Pickens Virtual Academy.

**10. If traditional schools are closed, will my student still be able to receive meals while participating in distance learning?**

Meals will be provided to students during distance learning. Specific details for meal delivery through school buses and/or pick-up will be provided at the time distance learning is needed for the district.