



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 25-075

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*

DATE: May 23, 2025

SUBJECT: 2025/26 Broward County Public Schools Free/Reduced Lunch Program

Beginning with the 2025/26 school year, Broward County Public Schools (“BCPS” or the “District”) families will need to apply to determine their eligibility for free and reduced-price lunches. Due to changes in program funding that allowed BCPS to offer free lunches for all students over the past two years, the District will transition back to the application process previously in place. Notwithstanding, all students will continue to receive free breakfast through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Universal Free Breakfast Program.

For the past two years, the BCPS Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Department assisted families with the cost of meals through two USDA Programs – The Universal Free Lunch Pilot Program and the Community Eligibility Provision – supplemented by FNS funds. Starting in the 2025/26 school year, free and reduced-price lunches will be offered based on eligibility, requiring families to complete an application. Students who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits, are enrolled in Head Start, or as designated by the District as Foster, Homeless, or Migrant are automatically certified to receive free lunch.

Families are encouraged to complete the meal eligibility application before the start of the 2025/26 school year. For students eligible for reduced-price lunches, meals are offered at \$0.40 per meal. Overall, lunch prices are increasing by \$1 for paying students across all grade levels. Lunch will cost \$3 in elementary school, \$3.35 in middle school and \$3.50 in high school.

The BCPS Food and Nutrition Services Department will begin accepting Meal Benefits Applications for the 2025/26 school year on Monday, July 14, 2025, at www.myschoolapps.com. The online application is available throughout the school year.

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Additionally, all households are encouraged to create an account for each student through My School Bucks at www.myschoolbucks.com starting July 28, 2025, for the purchase of meals and/or a la carte items.

Note that at the April 1, 2025 Commission meeting, the City Commission approved the amended Service Agreement for After-School Snack Provider between the City and All Kids Catering, Inc., to add supper meal delivery service to after-school program participants at seven (7) designated City facilities providing additional funds to augment meal services in the amount of \$246,000 via the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

Please contact Susan Leon, Chief Education Officer at sleon@fortlauderdale.gov or 954-828-5603 with any questions or concerns.

c: D'Wayne Spence, City Attorney
David R. Solomon, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office
Department Directors