



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SHIOCTON

N5650 Broad St, P.O. Box 68, Shiocton, WI 54170-0068
(920) 986-3351 • Fax (920) 986-3291

Nichole J. Schweitzer
District Administrator
Extension 761

Nicholas M. Ortlieb
Grades 7-12 Principal
Extension 751

Kim M. Griesbach
Grades PK-6 Principal
Extension 747

Kelly J. Thiel
Special Education Director
Extension 773

October 7, 2020 **** UPDATED 10/8/20****

RE: Free Meals, all students

Dear Parents and Family Members,

I am pleased to share that, effective yesterday, the School District of Shiocton was approved to participate in the extended Seamless Summer Option program made possible by the USDA. This program allows, upon approved application, school districts across the nation to continue offering free meals to enrolled students *through December 31, 2020*.

Was my child's account charged for meals yesterday, October 6? No, we did not charge any child's account for either breakfast or lunch yesterday as overnight communication with the Department of Public Instruction indicated our application to participate in the extended SSO program would very likely be approved.

How to do I sign my children up for the free meals? There is no sign-up needed. Every child who walks through the meal line receives that meal, be it breakfast or lunch, free of charge.

Does this include the ala carte meal for high school students? Yes, it does. What is **not included** are the juices, cookies, and single item purchases.

Can my child receive both meals free of charge? Yes, children can receive both breakfast and lunch free of charge each school day.

Is there anything that I need to do? Nothing other than encourage your child to join us for a healthy breakfast and lunch each day. Breakfast is served at 7:40AM each day; children have a designate lunch time per grade level. The lunch menu can be found on the last page the The Link, which can be accessed from the District's website at: https://www.shiocton.k12.wi.us/district/the_link.cfm.

How long will the free meals last? The USDA has extended the SSO free meals program through December 31, 2020 but cautions that the program can come to an end sooner if the funding becomes depleted.

What happens once the program ends on December 31, 2020 (or sooner if funds become depleted)? When the free meal offering ends, the District will return to charging families for both breakfast and lunch at the current rates. If economic changes occur for your family between now and then please consider applying for reduced or free meals through the Direct Certification program. Learn more at: <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-requirements/free-reduced-meal-eligibility>

UPDATES:

There is money on my child's lunch account. Will you refund that to me? Because the free meals program is set to expire on or before December 31, 2020, we will not be refunding lunch money already paid in. Instead, those dollars will remain on your child's account to be used once the offer expires.

If my child takes cold lunch, can s/he get a free milk? No. The program provides free meals but not free individual items, such as milk.

Will you deliver the meals? No, students will eat the meals on campus. This program does not extend to other children in the household.

"Where Excellence is Expected"

The Shiocton School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.



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Page 2

Does this apply to my child even if we are learning virtually through the school district? Yes. However, you will need to sign up for the meals with Mrs. Danke and pick the meals up each day between 9:00 and 9:30AM; we will not be delivering meals.

Does this apply to my child even if we are open enrolled into the District? Yes, so long as your child is actively attending through Open Enrollment into the District, your child is able to participate in the program.

Will my child receive a free meal(s) on days the school is closed? No. The program provides for free meals during the school days the child is in attendance for.

How long will the free meals last? The USDA has extended the SSO free meals program through December 31, 2020 but cautions that the program can come to an end sooner if the funding becomes depleted.

If my child lives with me in the school district but attends school in a different district, can s/he receive the free meals? No. Districts are approved to provide free meals to the students that are enrolled and attending the schools in their district.

If you have any questions regarding this offering, please contact Mrs. Deb Danke at ddanke@shiocton.k12.wi.us.

Yours in Education,


Nichole J. Schweitzer
District Administrator

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