



Forward in Excellence

Jill Weisman
Food Service Director

Dear Somers Families,

For the 2022-2023 school year, SCSD will be reverting to the pre-pandemic program known as the National School Lunch Program. **We will begin charging for all meals, at all schools, on the first day of school.**

- **Breakfast will be available in all schools for \$1.50.**
- **Lunch will be available in all schools for \$3.25.**

The state refers to this as the “Back to Normal” transition, which is statewide and not limited to just Somers. The waivers that allowed us to offer Free Lunch and Breakfast to all Somers students expired officially on June 30, 2022, according to the New York State Education Office of Child Nutrition and the USDA.

Filling out a free/reduced meal application for the 22/23 school year is encouraged for all families. If you have qualified in the past for free or reduced meals, or think that you may qualify now, you must fill out the application before the end of September. Although we will reactivate all student accounts to their pre-pandemic status of FREE, REDUCED, and PAID this status will expire Oct 20, 2022. *Applications for the 2022-23 school year are available now at somersschools.org/Page/9051.* We will be processing all the applications throughout the summer. The applications are available at your children’s school office and on our *website* for you to download. Receiving free or reduced meals may also qualify you for discounted rates on sports programs, test registration fees and college application fees. Be sure to fill out all pages of the application packet.

We also strongly recommended that you visit www.myschoolbucks.com to add funds to your children’s account before the start of school. You can also create accounts, set up low balance alerts, check balances and charges!

Please contact Jill Weisman in the Food Services Department at 914-248-6284 with any questions.

Thank you!

Have a safe and healthy summer.

The Two Most Frequently Asked Questions about School Lunch.

1. I pay my taxes. Why do I have to pay for lunch?

Your food service department is not funded by the local school district budget. We rely on earned revenue at each school and reimbursements from the Federal Government along with grants from the Department of Defense and the New York State Office of General Services, known as “Commodities Awards”, to keep our program going. Basically, school lunch is funded by the USDA and Administered by the State to each district. Local funds are not applied unless dire financial needs impact the departments’ ability to operate. This is rare.

2. Isn't it a law that school lunch is free?

No. What became known as “Universal Free Lunch” grew out of the Pandemic Relief efforts and was extended to all schools to help people who may need it during the pandemic. It was always voluntary to join the program so long as the School District applied for and were granted the waivers to do so. It was funded by increased reimbursements from the USDA and some money from New York State.