

## **Free breakfast and free lunch at ALL local schools in July, 2022**

All of the Charlotte County Public Schools will be offering free breakfast and free lunch to all students at their schools for the upcoming 2022/23 school year through CEP, or Community Eligibility Program.

This opportunity to feed over 15,000 arises from a USDA program called CEP. CEP is a federally funded program in which schools qualify as a '**community**' when the percentage of directly-certified students reaches a certain threshold at a particular school. Directly-certified means the student's family qualifies for TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families), SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), otherwise known as food stamps, or the student qualifies for Medicaid or Head Start. Since all students at CEP schools receive free breakfast and free lunch, an application for meal benefits is **not** collected from these families.

Students eligible for free meals sometimes ask why they cannot just select a milk or a piece of fruit instead of having to take several foods to equal a "meal". In order for the district to receive the federal funds that support the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs at Champ's Cafe, specific meal components must be served that make a complete USDA, United States Department of Agriculture meal. No federal reimbursement to the program is provided when a student selects just one or two items that do not meet the "meal" standard, so students are charged a la carte prices for these items. For a student to receive a free meal, the student must select at least 3 foods, one of which must be one half cup of fruit or vegetable. Students are not required to eat a school breakfast or lunch at any school, but are invited to select three foods to supplement their packed lunch, as long as one of the items is a fruit or vegetable.

The school food and nutrition services department for Charlotte County Public Schools is both non-profit and self-funded, that is, it operates like a business within the district and pays for its own costs, including salaries and benefits, uniforms, safe work shoes, electricity, water, garbage pick-up, etc. and it returns funds to the district to pay indirect costs, such as the services of the human resources, payroll, finance, purchasing and maintenance departments.

The mission of Champ's Cafe is to support the district's vision

of ***Student Success!*** by providing nutritious, high quality food choices that are attractive, reasonably-priced, and served in a safe, sanitary and customer-friendly environment so students develop lifelong healthy eating habits. *For more information about Champ's Cafe and the CEP program, please visit [yourcharlotteschools.net](http://yourcharlotteschools.net)*

article submitted by  
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**FLORIDA INCOME  
ELIGIBILITY  
GUIDELINES  
FOR FREE AND  
REDUCED-PRICE MEALS  
Effective from July 1, 2022 – June 20, 2023**

<b>FREE MEAL SCALE</b>					
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	17,667	1,473	737	680	340
2	23,803	1,984	992	916	458
3	29,939	2,495	1,248	1,152	576
4	36,075	3,007	1,504	1,388	694
5	42,211	3,518	1,759	1,624	812
6	48,347	4,029	2,015	1,860	930

7	54,483	4,541	2,271	2,096	1,048
8	60,619	5,052	2,526	2,332	1,166
For each additional family member, add	6,136	512	256	236	118
<b>REDUCED-PRICE MEAL SCALE</b>					
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	25,142	2,096	1,048	967	484
2	33,874	2,823	1,412	1,303	652
3	42,606	3,551	1,776	1,639	820
4	51,338	4,279	2,140	1,975	988
5	60,070	5,006	2,503	2,311	1,156
6	68,802	5,734	2,867	2,647	1,324
7	77,534	6,462	3,231	2,983	1,492
8	86,266	7,189	3,595	3,318	1,659
For each additional family member, add	8,732	728	364	336	168