

I. PURPOSE

Athlos Academy offers healthy meals for students every school day. Some children may qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.

II. POLICY

- A. Athlos Academy will send an *Application for Educational Benefits* form to the households of all enrolled students prior to the beginning of each school year explaining eligibility for and the process of applying for free or reduced-price school meals.
- B. Free or reduced-price meals are available for children who qualify.
 - 1. If a family qualifies for free or reduced-price meals, the *Application for Educational Benefits* form must be completed each school year and submitted to the front office and submitted to the front office within the first 15 days of the school year to prevent any gaps in benefits.
 - 2. Families may apply for free or reduced-price lunches any time during the school year, and should apply if the family's financial circumstances change.
 - 3. Once the application is either approved or denied, Athlos Academy will send a notification letter to the household eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
 - 4. Those receiving free or reduced-price meals will have those prices carried over for the first 30 school days of the next school year or until Athlos Academy receives a new application.
- C. Parent/guardians of all students are encouraged to submit an *Application for Educational Benefits* form even if their child does not intend to eat school meals, as unexpected circumstances may arise and students may eat a school meal. In order for benefits to apply, this form **must** already be on file.
 - 1. Kindergarten students are eligible to receive school meals and as such, are encouraged to submit an *Application for Educational Benefits* as well.
- D. School breakfast and lunch prices will be determined annually based on federal reimbursement rates.
 - 1. Any intended changes to the cost of school meals will be available to parent/guardians prior to the start of the school year.
 - 2. The preferred payment method for school meals is online through Athlos Academy's website.

Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Policy

3. Students are allowed to charge up to \$15 on their school meal accounts.
 4. Parent/guardians will be notified when a student's balance is overdrawn.
- E. Athlos Academy will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals

Legal References:

[Minn. Stat. §§124D.111-124D.1195](#) (School Breakfast and Lunch)

[7 C.F.R. §210](#) (National School Lunch Program)

[7 C.F.R. §220](#) (School Breakfast Program)

[7 C.F.R. §245](#) (Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals and Free Milk in Schools)