

Q6. Are there additional benefits of participating in the free or Reduced Meal program?

A6. *Yes, these are a few of the possible additional benefits:*

- *SAT & ACT fees may be waived*
- *Some after school programs may offer discounted rates*
- *Some Little League and Pop Warner teams offer discounted rates*
- *Certain school uniform vendors offer discounted rates*

Q7. Will my child be embarrassed in any way if he/she participates in the Free & Reduced Price Meal Program?

A7. *No. As stated in the answer to Question #3, the confidentiality of meal status is highly protected. Overt identification of eligible children is avoided. All students have an assigned 5-digit PIN to access their individual meal accounts.*

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CREATE AN ACCOUNT TO

- View Student Meal Purchases
- Check Student Account Balances
- Add Money to your Students Account

You will need:

Student's school

Grade

Birth Date

10 digit student ID # (not PIN)

(If you do not have your child's student ID #, please contact the FNS Manager at your child's school)

For further assistance, please contact the FNS Resource Manager, Lisa Wood at (941) 486-2199

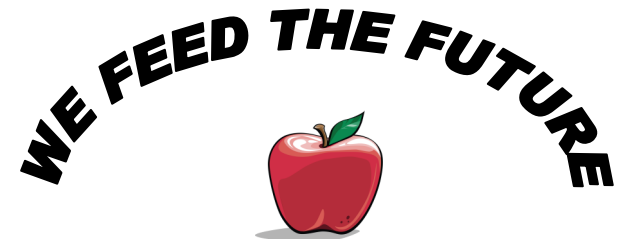
**Sarasota County Schools
Food and Nutrition Services**

101 Old Venice Road
Osprey, FL 34229
(941) 486-2199

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Free & Reduced Meal Program

A Parents Guide to Frequently Asked Questions



**101 Old Venice Road
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(941) 486-2199**

Q1. How will I know if my child qualifies for meal benefits?

A1. *Submit an application to apply for benefits, or check income eligibility guidelines at:*

Sarasotacountyschools.net/departments/FNS

1. *Online application at:*

Sarasotacountyschools.net/departments/FNS

2. *Paper applications available in the main office or from the school cafeteria*

Q2. Does my child qualify for Free or Reduced Price meals?

A2. *Students generally qualify in one of three ways:*

1. *Income eligibility and household size*

2. *Direct Certification of meal benefits to families who receive SNAP or Medicaid*

3. *Migrant, homeless, or foster student approval with documentation*



Q3. Will anyone know if my child is on Free or Reduced price meals?

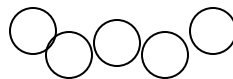
A3. *The only way anyone will know your child's meal status is if your child shares the information. Overt identification of students receiving meal benefits is not allowed.*

All students have a 5-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN) to access computerized meal accounts regardless of whether they are on free, reduced, or paid status.

Q4. My children are already on the program. Do I need to renew my status?

A4. *All recipients of meal benefits must complete an application on an annual basis.*

If you receive a letter of Direct Certification Notification, during the late summer, for the upcoming school year, you do not need to complete an application.



Q5. Who will know if my child is in the program?

A5. *Free and Reduced information is typically accessed for purposes of identifying overall economic indicators of a school population.*

School principals may also sign a disclosure of Free and Reduced Price Information Agreement on an annual basis. This agreement requires that Free & Reduced information be kept in a locked and secure place, the information remain confidential, and that the information only be used for educational purposes.

View monthly Breakfast and Lunch menus at Sarasotacountyschools.net

