



March 17, 2023

Dear Caledonia Community Schools community,

We hope this letter finds you well. Caledonia Community Schools, in cooperation with Aramark Foods, is excited to announce that **starting Monday, March 20, 2023, all students who qualify for reduced meal pricing will receive free meals until the end of the academic year.** As you may know, during the pandemic all students were counted as free and the Food Service Fund received federal reimbursement for every meal served. This has led to a healthy fund balance in our Food Service Fund, and we believe that it is a great opportunity to utilize these additional funds and provide free meals to all families who qualify for reduced meal pricing.

Food Service Funds are specific to our food service programming and have specific rules on how these funds can be spent. It is a completely separate fund and not associated at all with the district's general operating fund. We believe that the additional Food Service Funds provide us with the potential to enhance our food service programming and provide additional benefits to our students. The cost of school meals can be a financial burden for some families, and we want to ensure that more of our students have access to free nutritious meals during the school day.

With this change, qualifying families will no longer have to pay for the cost of school meals if they qualify for free or reduced meal pricing during the 2022-2023 year. School meals have a tremendous impact on both making sure that kids are in the classroom and nourished, but also preparing them to be ready to learn. We want to help families whose income may have shifted recently and help alleviate the burden they may be facing, and allow our students to focus on their studies without worrying about access to food.

We encourage qualifying families to complete a Free and Reduced Price Meal Application online. Completing a free and reduced school meal application is completely confidential. Students who qualify are not identified in any way at school. Applications can be completed online at <https://caledonia.familyportal.cloud/>. Families that qualify for free or reduced meal pricing will receive free school meals until the end of the 2023 school year.

Please contact Mimi Mahaney-Stalzer (mahaneym@calschools.org) in our food service department with any questions, or if you need a paper application mailed out to you.

Sincerely,

Mimi Mahaney-Stalzer
Food Service Director