



Keota Community Schools

PO Box 88

Keota, Iowa 52248

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Gina Bennett – Central Office Secretary/Board of Education Secretary

Dear Keota Community School Patron,

When the 2021-22 school year ends, so will free meals for every student. While the federal government funded a program that allowed all students access to free meals during the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress recently declined to continue funding this program. This means all families will need to carry a positive balance in their children's school meal accounts when school begins in August 2022.

We understand this change may cause you to worry. There are important steps you can take to make sure your student receives the meals they need next year.

1. Complete an Application for Free and Reduced Meals – If your student qualifies for free or reduced meals, they can still receive them next year, but you must take action to make it happen. An application for school year 2022-23 will be included in school registration packets or can be picked up earlier at Keota CSD Central Office. Applications can NOT be processed before July 1, 2022 per the State of Iowa.

There is a 30 day grace period beginning the first day of school August 25th if you **already** qualified in **2021-22** for free meals through the application process. That 30 day period expires on **October 6th 2022**. If you do NOT fill out an application for free and reduced meals, your status will automatically be changed from free/reduced to full price, effective October 7th.

2. Budget for the Cost of School Lunches (if you do not qualify for free and reduced meals), Families that do not qualify for free or reduced meals can start depositing money into their students school lunch account to prepare for the cost of school lunches next year. Information on meal prices for the 2022-23 school year will be available in the near future.

3. Pay off Negative School Lunch Balances

If your student has a negative lunch account balance, we encourage you to pay that **by the end of the 2022 school year** and then begin depositing money into your student's account to prepare for the 2022-23 school year.

If you have any questions or to inquire about your student's current lunch balance, please feel free to contact Gina at Keota CSD Central Office, PO Box 88, Keota, IA 52248 or 641-636-2189, or gina.bennett@keota.k12.ia.us

Thank you very much!

It is the policy of the Keota School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), gender identity, and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have any questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the District's Equity Coordinator: Jim Henrich, HS Principal, 505 N. Ellis Street, Keota, IA 52248.