

September 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We can't wait to welcome students back to the cafeteria for the 2025-2026 school year! To kick off the new year, we wanted to share a few things you and your child can look forward to when it comes to mealtime, information on meal pricing and steps to apply for free and reduced-price meals, how we manage food allergies and the documentation needed, and an inside look at the new recipes, concepts, and programs we'll be introducing this fall.

The value of school lunch is top of mind as families continue to experience inflation and growing food costs at home. In addition to giving kids the chance to try new foods and cut back on food waste, school lunch provides students with healthy, balanced, and safe meals at an affordable price, while saving families time and stress.

Meal Cost and Free and Reduced-Price Meal Applications

For the 2025-26 school year pricing please visit

<https://www.bergen.org/cms/lib/NJ02213295/Centricity/Domain/124/SS%20LETTER%20TO%20PARENT%20ENGLISH%2024.pdf>. Free or Reduced-Price Meals are available again this year to students who qualify for these benefits, but all students, regardless of family situations, are encouraged to dine in the cafeteria together.

We encourage all families, regardless of income, to complete and submit a short, confidential school meal application prior to the start of the school year to ensure that there are no gaps in meal benefits for students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Parents or guardians can submit this application online at <https://www.bergen.org/Page/1444>. It's an easy and confidential way to ensure your child stays well-nourished at school. **The District operates on a prepayment basis for meals and this link will also allow you to set up a Payschools account to fund and review your child's lunch purchases.**

Food Allergies and Special Dietary Needs

We recognize the critical importance of our approach to supporting students and families who manage food allergy issues every day and work closely with the families of students who have food allergies and medical conditions that require a modification to their menu. Our approach involves coordination between parents and guardians, school nurses, school administrators, and food service professionals in the school's/district's food allergy and medical conditions protocol. If you would like your child to receive meal accommodations for food allergies or a medical condition impacting the diet, please contact Elimcc@bergen.org to discuss the required documentation to be submitted to your child's school.

Please visit [Nutrislice | Bergen County Special Services School District](#)

to view menus or check for nutritional or allergy information. Through sharing our passion for great tasting food, instilling a desire for food discovery, and most importantly, providing nourishing meals, we're excited to continue serving up happy and healthy to your children in 2025-26.

We love hearing from parents, and your feedback is important to us. Please reach out to our team with any questions or comments. We're looking forward to a great school year!

Thank you,

Scott Kallensee

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