



419-736-3300



blackriverschools.org



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Please see the following update from the Black River Local Schools Food Service Department

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress and the US Department of Agriculture authorized waivers allowing all students, regardless of family income, to receive free breakfast and lunch. Unfortunately, lawmakers have elected not to extend the waivers past June 30, 2022, thus eliminating the program for the 2022-2023 school year.

This program has helped many families over the last two years, and we are saddened it will no longer be available for our community moving forward.

In accordance with **the end of the unconditional free meal program**, we feel it is important Black River families are made aware of how to participate in the free meal program moving forward:

Meal Assistance Application – *PLEASE* fill out a meal application even if you are unsure if your child/children will qualify. We want to make sure all our students can get a free or reduced-price meal, if eligible. Only one application per household is needed.

After **July 1**, you can complete an application **online** at payschoolscentral.com. This is also available on the school website (blackriver.org) under the food service department tab. Paper applications will be available in each school office or board office. Online applications are preferred.

Direct Certification/Free Meals – Black River Local School District will run the Direct Certification a few weeks before school starts. This process will automatically approve students for free meals if they qualify. **IF** you receive a letter stating your child/children were approved, **YOU MUST** sign and return the letter, which will allow instructional school fees to be waived. *Black River Local Schools will run the Direct Certification several times throughout the school year to identify any students who may qualify after the initial run.*

Reduce-priced Meals – Our Food Service Department does not use any tax dollars/general funds to operate the department. The department is funded by Federal dollars, which are received from each sold meal. Your children can receive a **\$2.00 breakfast** and **\$3.50 lunch**. If you complete a school meal application and are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals, the reduced price is \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch.