

Santa Cruz City Schools
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Santa Cruz City Schools today announced that it will be serving meals to students under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs for the **2026-2027** school year. All students will be served breakfast and lunch at no charge under the California Universal Meals Program at the following sites:

Bayview Elementary, Westlake Elementary, Gault Elementary, De Laveaga Elementary, Monarch Elementary, Mission Hill Middle School, Branciforte Middle School, Soquel High School, Santa Cruz High School, Harbor High School, Costanoa Career Technical School, AFE & ARK Independent Studies and New Horizons

For additional information, please contact:

Amy Hedrick-Farr, Director of Food & Nutrition Services
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831-429-3850

While the program will offer free Universal Meals for all students, households are encouraged to complete the Family Benefits Form, which may support the school district's local education funding and could also qualify the family for additional benefits. Regardless of your determined eligibility status, your child will continue to receive free meals for the 2026-2027 school year.

Reduced-Price Meals Income Eligibility Guidelines

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	YEAR	MONTH	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEK
1	\$29,526	\$2,461	\$1,231	\$1,136	\$568
2	\$40,034	\$3,337	\$1,669	\$1,540	\$770
3	\$50,542	\$4,212	\$2,106	\$1,944	\$972
4	\$61,051	\$5,088	\$2,544	\$2,349	\$1,175
5	\$71,558	\$5,964	\$2,982	\$2,753	\$1,377
6	\$82,066	\$6,839	\$3,420	\$3,157	\$1,579
7	\$92,574	\$7,715	\$3,858	\$3,561	\$1,781
8	\$103,082	\$8,591	\$4,296	\$3,956	\$1,983
FOR EACH ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER ADD	\$10,508	\$876	\$438	\$405	\$203

Households do not need to apply when the household receives a notification letter saying that all children automatically qualify for free meals when any household member receives benefits from SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR. Children who meet the definition of foster, homeless, migrant, or runaway, are eligible

for free meals. Contact Food & Nutrition Services if any child in the household is not on the notification letter.

The Family Benefits Form maybe completed as part of your child's registration packet online or by visiting Our website at www.surfcitycafes.com Households that want to completely a paper application can do so by printing the form from our website or picking a copy up from a school site. Only one form per family is required, including all children in the household. Return completed forms to the school site.

Households may turn in a Benefits Form at any time during the school year. If you are not eligible now, but your household income goes down, household size goes up, or a household member starts receiving SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR, you may turn in a Benefits Form at that time. Information given on the Benefits Form will be used to determine eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school officials. The last four digits of the Social Security number from any adult household or checking that you do not have a Social Security number is required if you include income on the application.

Non-discrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the state or local agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, [AD-3027](#), found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

fax:

202-690-7442; or

email:

Program.Intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Last updated: July 1, 2026