

Online Free & Reduced Meal Applications

Decatur City Schools Child Nutrition Program is proud to announce that the online free and reduced application has been a big success! The process is quick, easy and FREE and can be done in a few short steps, just follow the prompts to complete one application for the entire household. Since the information you are providing is electronic, a determination will be made faster than ever before and “lost” or “misplaced” applications will be a thing of the past. Your information is protected using encryption technology so you can rest assured that your personal information is safe.

When you are ready to apply, go to <https://onlinemealapp.dcs.edu/>. Select English or Spanish and follow the instructions on the screens. When you have completed your application, you will be prompted to enter your electronic signature. Click Submit and you are finished. You will be notified of the determination in approximately 10 days.

If you do not have access to the internet, a computer is available for the online process at the Child Nutrition Office, 910 Wilson Street NE, Decatur, AL 35601.

Temporary Status

If you received free or reduced meals last year, you will need to complete and return an application for the 2017-2018 year by **September 22, 2017**. On that date, unless a current school year application has been submitted, eligibilities will be changed to paying status.

Direct Certification

Decatur City Schools receives a database of SNAP recipients that is compared to our enrollment database. If a student is in a household receiving SNAP benefits the student and household will be determined to be direct certified and will not have to complete an application. If you receive a letter stating that your child(ren) is direct certified and there are other children in the household, please notify the Child Nutrition District Office at 256-560-6801, or by email at Julia.Senn@dcs.edu. If a direct certification letter is received in the incorrect language, please notify the Child Nutrition office so that a change can be made to future correspondence.

PayPams

PAMS(parent account management system) is a feature of our Child Nutrition Program. Go to <http://www.paypams.com> and check it out. You can use debit/credit cards with this program!

You can make one-time payments or set-up automatic payments. You can choose to have email notifications sent to you when your child's balance reaches a certain level. You can monitor your child's purchases in the cafeteria. **The only time you will be charged a fee is if you make a payment**, the remaining services are free.

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, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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 Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at [\(800\) 877-8339](tel:800-877-8339). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html 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](tel: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](#)
[Washington, D.C. 20250](#)-9410

fax: [\(202\) 690-7442](tel:202-690-7442); or
email: program.intake@usda.gov

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