



# Students Eat for **Free!**

All kids, 18 and under.

September 11, 2020

Dear Benton Area School District Families,

The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture recently announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will extend several flexibilities for school meals throughout the remainder of 2020. The USDA stated, “As our nation reopens and people return to work, it remains critical our children continue to receive safe, healthy, and nutritious food.”

**The Benton Area School District is now offering a FREE breakfast and FREE lunch to each student who is present during the school day, as of September 1st.**

(Any meal charges made to students’ accounts will be reimbursed to your child’s account.) Any food items purchased in addition to a breakfast or lunch will still need to be paid for in full (ala carte items, snacks, drinks, etc.).

**At this time the free meals for all students will only run until December 31, 2020 or until funding is no longer available at which time statuses will return to Paid, Free and Reduced rates based on qualifications and applications, so please continue to return free and reduced meal applications as soon as possible to avoid any gap in benefits.**

We remain committed to providing students access to healthy, nutritious, and wholesome meals while assuring the utmost food safety without compromising quality.

Thank you!

