



LITCHFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

272 East Sagebrush Street • Litchfield Park, Arizona 85340 • 623.535.6000 • Fax 623.935.1448 • www.lesd79.org

"A Stronger Mind for a Stronger Future"

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Welcome to the 2020/2021 School Year. Please read the following information to familiarize yourself with a few Child Nutrition procedures. If you have questions, please call or email, the Food Services Office at (623) 535-6060 or food-nutrition@lesd.k12.az.us

The goal of the Litchfield Elementary School District's award-winning Food Services Department is to provide nutritious and appetizing meals for all students. We offer high-quality meals at school, so your child is prepared to achieve educational excellence. Thank you for partnering with us to ensure quality nutrition for your child.

Nutritional Quality

Lunch and breakfast menus meet the American Dietary Guidelines as specified by the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. Additionally, menus are analyzed to ensure that, when averaged over a week, meals comply with these nutritional standards.

Meal Benefits

All Litchfield families are encouraged to apply for the Free and Reduced Price Meal Assistance Program. Applications are available at www.lesd79.org (Food Services Department, TITAN School Solutions link) and at all District schools and cafeterias. Only one application is needed for all of your children enrolled in the Litchfield Elementary School District (K-8). Recipients of CA, Food Stamps, or FDIPIR benefits must complete an application if they have not been directly certified for this school year. Incomplete applications will be returned to you, delaying the approval process. Electronic applications are processed faster. You are responsible for payment of meal charges until the application is approved, which may take up to 10 days.

Application Dates

If your child was approved for free or reduced meals during the 2019-2020 school year and you would like benefits to continue, **you must re-apply by Thursday, September 17, 2020,** to avoid interruption of benefits.

Offer vs. Serve Program

All District cafeterias operate under the "Offer vs. Serve" method. All students will be offered a full meal in accordance with USDA requirements, which consist of a Meat/Alternate, Grain, Vegetable, Fruit, and Fluid Milk. Students have the option to refuse some components provided at least ½ cup of fruit and or vegetable in addition to any two other components are chosen; however, meal prices remain the same. If a student refuses more meal components than allowed, then the student must pay a la carte prices for the selected items. All meals include one trip through the salad and fruit bar, which offer a large variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, and mixed salads daily. We strive to provide healthier choices for our students and offer low-fat, reduced sugar, reduced-sodium, whole grain-rich, and nutrient-dense products. Monthly menus are posted online and may be found at www.lesd79.org or on the TITAN Family Portal <https://family.titank12.com>, where you may also view the nutritional information.

Meal Prices for Students and Visitors

Breakfast is available at all schools for \$1.50 (\$2.50 for visitors) and lunch for \$2.75 (\$3.75 for visitors). Students who qualify for reduced-price meals may buy breakfast for \$0.30 and lunch for \$0.40.

Meal Charges

All students have a meal account with an ID number. You may review your student's account balance and make payments to your student's account by visiting www.lesd79.org (Food Services Department, TITAN School Solutions link). Deposits by check, money order, or cash may be made before school. Pre-payments of any size are welcome. A \$5.00 fee will be charged for each nonsufficient fund check that is returned by the bank and may result in checks no longer being accepted. Student's account balances, both negative and positive, rollover from the previous year.

Thank you,

Chef, Ronald L. Beck II, BS, SNS
Director, Food Services Department

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.