Free Meals For ALL Students Ends With The 2021-2022 School Year.

When the 2021-2022 school year ends, so do the free meals for every student. While the federal government funded a program that allowed all students access to free school meals during the COVID - 19 pandemic , Congress recently declined to continue funding this program. This means ALL families will need to carry a positive balance in their student's meal account when school begins next fall.

We understand this change may cause families to worry. There are important steps you can take today to make sure your student receives the meals they need next year.

1. Complete the 2021-2022 online application for free and reduced meals BEFORE the end of this school year. IF you have not already filled out an application for the 2021 -2022 year. This will give you a 30 day grace period at the start of the 2022 - 2023 school year to complete another application for next year.
2. Next fill out the 2022 -2023 online application which will be available on the District's website after August 1, 2022. Even if you complete the 2021 - 2022 application , you MUST also complete the 2022 -2023 application to receive free or reduced meal benefits after the 30 day grace period is over.
3. Budget for the cost of school meals (If you don't qualify for free and reduced meals). Families that do not qualify for free and reduced meals can start depositing money into their student's meal account to prepare for the cost of school meals next year. Information on meal prices for the 2022-2023 school year will be available in the near future.
4. Pay Off Negative School Lunch Balances. If your student has a negative lunch account balance , we encourage you to pay that as soon as possible and then begin depositing money into your student's account to prepare for the 2022 - 2023 school year.

Any questions please contact the District office at 641-498-7481 or email Allison Frost afrost@e-marshall.k12.ia.us or Amy Gage , Food Service Director at agage@e-marshall.k12.ia.us.