

Cafeteria Meal Payment Guidelines

2025-2026 School Year

Whiteford Schools utilizes a computerized sale system for all cafeteria sales. This school year we have made the switch on the system we use from **Meal Magic®** to **Infinite Campus** to provide seamless access amongst all student accounts. This switch is expected to benefit the school, staff, students and parents alike.

Note: Over the past couple of years, the state of Michigan has offered waivers to Child Nutrition Programs across the United States. These waivers have allowed schools to provide all students with **one healthy breakfast and one lunch each school day at no cost to families.**

However, these waivers are currently set to **expire on September 30, 2025.** If they are not extended or renewed, Child Nutrition Programs nationwide will return to their normal operations. This means that students may no longer receive free breakfast and lunch, and meals may be charged based on household income eligibility.

Until September 30, 2025, all enrolled students will continue to receive **one free breakfast and one free lunch each school day,** regardless of family income.

We will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available. In the meantime, we encourage families to be prepared for possible changes in meal pricing for the 2025–2026 school year and to take a moment to complete the **Education and Nutrition Benefits application form.**

We still need your household to complete the Education and Nutrition Benefits application, if you think your family qualifies, since the amount of money the district receives from a variety of State and Federal supplemental programs is based on the number of students who “qualify” for free or reduced-price meals. It is easiest to complete the application via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal Family Portal link at <https://whitefordagmi.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/parents/whiteford.jsp>; a link can be accessed from the district’s website on the Food Service page. If unable to submit electronically, please complete the paper application and return it to the school district as soon as possible.

DEPOSITS TO ACCOUNTS: For efficiency in moving students/staff through the serving line in a timely manner, students/staff will need to pre-pay for their ala carte/meal purchases. Deposits to individual accounts can be made in any denomination (i.e., \$10, \$20, \$50 or more) or based on individual meal prices. Deposits can to be made at the school by cash or check or by logging into the Infinite Campus Parent Portal and placing funds on your students account via check or credit card. If paying by cash or check at the school, deposit envelopes and secure bins for dropping off deposits are located outside the elementary cafeteria, high school office and middle school staff lounge.

For check or credit card payments made on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal: If you have more than one child in the school district, you can make one payment and split the funds the way you want amongst your students. Funds are applied and available for use immediately.

For payments made by cash or check at the school: If you have more than one child in the school district, you only need to write one check for their meal/a la carte purchases, regardless of which building(s) they are in. Simply indicate on the deposit envelope the names of the children, student ID numbers and how much you want in each account. We can split funds evenly between family/household members (i.e., \$60 split between three children = \$20 towards each account) or designated amounts by child. If there is no designation on the envelope, deposits will be split

evenly between family/household members. Deposits made between the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. will be applied to accounts that day; deposits made after 11:00 a.m. will become available the following business day. It's important that students/staff drop off deposits before the start of the school day. It is recommended that students/staff deposit money in their account to cover 2 weeks or more of food purchases at a time.

ACCOUNT BALANCES: Account balances can be viewed 24 hours a day/7 days a week on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

LOW BALANCE NOTICES: Automatic email notices will be sent this year when a student's balance reaches \$5.00. Parents should regularly keep track of their student's account balance as they may run low on funds for ala carte purchases.

CASH WITHDRAWALS: Account balances will stay with the individual until the individual leaves the school district. No cash withdrawals are allowed from any account for any reason during the school year. Balances on accounts in excess of \$10.00 will be refunded to individuals who leave the district or graduate, if a request is made in writing by the parent and a mailing address is provided.

CHANGE RETURN GUIDELINE:

- ♦ Elementary Students: The district has implemented a "no change" guideline for students in the elementary building. Any student presenting cash for a transaction will not have change returned to them; it will be applied to their individual account.
- ♦ Middle/High School Students: Students are discouraged from presenting cash for transactions. It is suggested that students in the middle/high school also have their "change" applied to their individual accounts. Change will only be given if requested prior to the completion of the transaction.

EDUCATION AND NUTRITION BENEFITS APPLICATIONS: Families are encouraged to submit applications for free or reduced priced meals any time the family financial situation changes. You may complete the application online at:

<https://whitefordagmi.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/parents/whiteford.jsp>

A link to this site is also available on the district's website (*OUR DISTRICT / FOOD SERVICE / then scroll down to the right under the RESOURCES heading*). This secure online application method will speed up the processing of your application.

Please keep in mind that changes in eligibility status are not final until approved by the appropriate district official. You will receive written notification of the status of your application when processed.

PIN NUMBER – MS/HS STUDENTS: Students in grades TK-12 will need to know their 5-digit student ID number, which will also serve as their PIN number. As students appear at the register, they simply key in their PIN number and their account information will appear on the cashier's register screen, along with a photo of the student and pertinent information (i.e., account balance).

SECOND (2ND) MEALS: Students desiring a second meal during the meal period will be allowed to purchase an additional meal; however, it will be charged at the full meal rate.

Thank you for your cooperation with our food service point of sale system guidelines. Questions should be directed to the Business Office at 734.856.1443, ext. 111.