

GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BLANDFORD - CHESTER - HUNTINGTON -
MIDDLEFIELD - MONTGOMERY - RUSSELL

January 4, 2019

Dear Chester Parent/Guardian,

Recently there have been some questions and misunderstandings about how the lunch program works in Chester. Gateway Food Services would like to take a moment to make it clear to all Chester parents and guardians what it means for Chester to be a CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) school. Chester is eligible because at least 40% or more of the student enrollment qualify for Free meals directly from the state.

Unfortunately though, it does not mean that everything is free. What it does mean is that **fully reimbursable meals only** are free. While milk is included in the meals provided by the school, if your child brings in a cold lunch but wants to purchase a milk, they will need to bring money in to pay for it or it will be charged to their account. If any account gets into the negative, the parent will then be sent an owe slip home with their child on Fridays. The lunch program receives reimbursements for **full meals only** from the state, in **ALL** schools, including **CEP** schools. Presently, our other schools (Gateway MS/HS & Littleville Elementary) do not meet the 40 % eligible qualification and are not CEP schools.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tasha Hartley, Food Service Director, at 685-1005 or thartley@grsd.org.

Thank you for your understanding.

Kind Regards,

Tasha L. Hartley
Food Service Director