



11/1/23

## Free MPSD Breakfast/Lunch Program Returns (no eligibility paperwork needed)

Dear MPSD families and staff,

Amid community concerns about making sure no Manitowoc Public School District children go hungry, I have made the decision, with support from our Board of Education, to resume a federal universal school meal program this school year.

Starting this Monday, November 6, 2023, **for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year, MPSD will offer free breakfast and lunch meals to all students regardless of eligibility**, continuing a practice the district began to offer during COVID. Breakfast will be provided in our schools before school starts so our academic instruction will not be interrupted or delayed. **See each MPSD school's breakfast time on the next page.**

We need to make academic learning our number one priority — and raise student reading proficiency levels from our current state of only 30% of K12 students reading at grade level. This priority outweighs the financial benefit or burden of the food service program with before-school breakfast times. The district has reviewed the transportation schedules to ensure that all K12 students who receive district transportation will arrive in time to participate in before-school breakfast if they wish.

The USDA has approved our waiver request to allow MPSD to rejoin the [Community Eligibility Provision](#) for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year, similar to how meals were offered during the 2022-23 school year.

This summer we notified families via letter that I had made the decision to return to a free, reduced and paid meal program in which students whose families were eligible and completed a simple form could continue to receive free or reduced cost meals. Families who could afford to pay for their children's meals would not receive free/reduced meals. That decision has drawn considerable attention and criticism, which has persuaded me and the Board that a program reversal is in order.

I would be happy to explain the details surrounding this decision to anyone who would like to contact me (920-686-4781, [feilj@mpsd.school](mailto:feilj@mpsd.school)). My bottom line is I do not want any children to go hungry, and our principals and Solutions Teams will look for any children who may fall through any gaps to ensure they are fed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Feil'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Feil  
MPSD Superintendent



# FREE BREAKFAST BEFORE SCHOOL

*Get free breakfast to fuel your day!*

**Franklin: 7:45-8:10 a.m.**

(enter gym door)

**Jackson: 8:15-8:30 a.m.**

(enter door closest to gym)

**Jefferson: 7:45-8:05 a.m.**

(enter door E)

**Madison: 7:45-8:05 a.m.**

(enter gym door)

**Monroe: 8:15-8:35 a.m.**

(enter front, go to gym)

**Riverview: 8:15-8:40 a.m.**

(for K-5; enter front, go to cafeteria)

**Washington: 7:15-7:45 a.m.**

(enter gym, go to cafeteria)

**Wilson: 7:15-7:45 a.m.**

(enter front, go to cafeteria)

**McKinley Academy: 8:15-9:00 a.m.**

(for 9-12; enter front, stop at office)

**Lincoln: 7:45 a.m. start**

(typical entrances, go to cafeteria)

