

Gladewater ISD Seamless Summer Option Free Meals in School Year 2021-2022

Gladewater ISD will offer free meals to all students during the (2021-2022) school year. Typically, a student's household must meet income eligibility requirements to qualify for free or reduced-price meals. However, the USDA issued guidance that allows schools to offer meals to all students at no cost for the (2021-2022) school year. Schools nationwide will be allowed to serve meals through USDA's National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO), which is typically only available during the summer months.

Gladewater ISD is excited to offer healthy, delicious meals at no cost to all families, regardless of their household income. Free school meals will help expand food access in Gladewater while also providing comfort for students and convenience for families.

The free meals will be one (1) complete meal from the serving line. **Additional meals, extra entrée items, snacks, and drinks (other than milk) will be at an additional cost.** Your student will still use their lunch accounts and lunch ID numbers. They may use their lunch accounts for purchasing the extra items, and you will still be able to send money or pay on-line to add money to their lunch accounts.

While no application or eligibility determination process is required for your student to receive free meals this school year, the income eligibility requirement will likely resume for the (2022-2023) school year. If a parent needs an application on file for any additional P-EBT benefits please contact your student's campus or the food service department. Since no applications are being processed this school year, **parents will need to be sure to fill out the (2022-2023) free and reduced application before school starts due to the 30 day carry over statuses not being in effect for the (2022-2023) school year.**

A Direct Certified letter, for your records, will be sent out to your household before the (2021-2022) school year. If you did not receive a Direct Certification Letter and need one please contact the food service department.