



August 13, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are pleased to share some exciting news regarding school meals for the upcoming school year. Gates County Schools will be participating in the **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** on a **trial basis** for the [2025–2026] school year.

CEP is a federal program that allows eligible schools to provide **meals at no cost (breakfast and lunch) to all students**—regardless of household income—without the need to complete a meal application. This trial will help us assess the program's impact on student participation, program costs, and overall success.

What This Means for You:

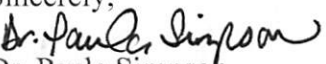
- All students enrolled in the Gates County School District will receive **one breakfast and one lunch at no cost each school day**.
- No meal applications are required during this trial period.
- Additional items (like snacks or second meals) will still be available for purchase.
- You can add funds for additional purchases and monitor your child's account by visiting our online payment center at www.K12PaymentCenter.com.

Why We're Trying This:

We believe this initiative can reduce barriers to healthy meals, increase participation in school nutrition programs, and support a better learning environment. However, because this is a trial, we will closely monitor participation and financial sustainability throughout the year to determine if the program should continue long-term.

We encourage every student to take advantage of this opportunity and enjoy nutritious meals at school each day. Your support and feedback will be valuable as we evaluate the program's success.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the School Nutrition Office at (252)-357-1113 or simpsonpj@gatescountyschools.net

Sincerely,

Dr. Paula Simpson
Director of School Nutrition
Gates County Public Schools