



Artesia Public Schools

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James T. Phipps, Assistant Superintendent
tphipp@bulldogs.org

March 17, 2020

To: APS Students, Staff, and Parents/Guardians
From: Aaron Caldera, Food Service Director
Thad Phipps, Assistant Superintendent for Operations
Re: **Additional Information (Meals during school closure)**

School districts across the State of New Mexico have received guidance regarding serving meals from the New Mexico Public Education Department as well as the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service. These agencies have provided us with several options of how we can provide meals to students as well as others in our community during the school closure. After reviewing and considering all of the options and guidance, it is our intention to serve meals to our students in the Artesia Public Schools under the normal regulations of the National School Lunch Program. This option allows us to serve meals at all APS schools instead of just those who have free/reduced lunch populations of 50% or higher. It also allows us to serve meals to all students in our district rather than just students who qualify for free and reduced meals.

Payment for Meals

Because we chose to operate under normal regulations, the United States Department of Agriculture will reimburse our school district utilizing their normal procedure for meals served during the school closure. This means that parents of students who are on "reduced" and "paid" meal status will continue to pay for their student's meals as normal. Students who are on "free" meal status remain "free".

The Artesia Public Schools **will not** be accepting payments at the school sites during the school closure. This will help limit contact with our school staff and expedite meal distribution. Parents may pay for their student's meals using the MyMealTime app found at the bottom of our homepage at www.bulldogs.org. Parents may also simply wait until schools re-open to pay for the meals.

Hours of Operation

We will now be serving meals from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

School Site Update

The district will no longer be serving meals at Artesia High School. AHS students may obtain their meals from any other school site.

Please direct all questions regarding this program to:

Aaron Caldera (575) 748-2381 or acaldera@bulldogs.org

Thad Phipps (575) 746-3585 or tphipp@bulldogs.org