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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IDEA Public Schools Offers Free Meals through Community Eligibility Provision

IDEA schools across the state to offer free breakfast and lunch to students during school day

Tampa Bay, FL (July 22, 2026) – [IDEA Public Schools](#) is excited to announce it will be implementing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) under the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs for the upcoming 2026-27 school year. All IDEA Tampa Bay schools will provide nutritious breakfast and lunch to all children at no charge. This will eliminate the collection of meal applications for free, reduced-price, and paid student meals.

“When students have access to nutritious meals, they’re better equipped to learn, grow, and succeed both in and out of the classroom,” said Janine Valentin, Vice President of Operations for IDEA Florida. “Through the Community Eligibility Provision, IDEA is proud to provide every student with healthy, balanced meals at no cost to families, helping ensure they have the nourishment they need to thrive every school day.”

No action is required from families for their child(ren) to participate in the free meal offerings.

The three [IDEA Tampa Bay](#) qualifying campuses for CEP in 2026-2027 are:

- **IDEA Hope**
- **IDEA Victory**
- **IDEA Lakeland**

For additional information about the Community Eligibility Program (CEP), please contact:

IDEA Public Schools
ATTN: IPS Enterprises
2115 W. Pike Blvd.
Weslaco, TX 78596

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About IDEA Public Schools

[IDEA Public Schools](#) believes that each child can go to college. Since 2000, IDEA Public Schools has grown from a small school with 150 students to a network of tuition-free, K-12 public charter schools in the United States. Currently, the network serves over 87,000 college-bound students in 149 schools across Texas and its affiliates. IDEA has been recognized in national rankings for *The Washington Post*, The U.S.

Department of Education's list of Blue Ribbon Schools, and *U.S. News & World Report's* Top High Schools lists. In the last 18 years, IDEA has sent nearly 100% of its graduates to college and remains on track to uphold that legacy.

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Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Website: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/civil-rights/nds>

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