

Coventry Public Schools

Department of Nutrition Services

1776 Main Street

Coventry, Connecticut 06238

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The School Nutrition Department is committed to providing efficient service while maintaining accurate accounting of all student meal funds. Beginning school year 2026-2027, our cafeterias will implement a new cash-handling procedure.

What's Changing?

Our cafeteria registers will no longer keep cash on hand to make change. If a student pays with cash and the amount provided is more than the cost of the meal or purchase, the remaining balance (change) will be **credited directly to the student's SchoolCafe meal account** instead of being returned as cash.

For example:

- Meal purchase: \$3.35
- Student pays: \$5.00
- Remaining balance: \$1.65
- **\$1.65 will be added to the student's SchoolCafe account** and can be used toward future school meal or approved cafeteria purchases.

Why Are We Making This Change?

This new procedure will:

- Improve the security and accountability of cafeteria funds.
- Reduce cash handling and the risk of cash shortages or errors.
- Speed up service at the checkout line.
- Ensure that any remaining funds stay safely on your child's meal account for future purchases.

Families are encouraged to send exact cash whenever possible or to make deposits into their child's SchoolCafe account online.

If your child does not have a SchoolCafe account or if you have questions about this new procedure, please contact the School Nutrition Office at Food Service Director, Courtney Haines, email: chaines@coventryct.org Phone: 860-742-4535.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we work to provide safe, efficient, and high-quality meal service to our students.

Sign up on:

Website: **Family.schoolcafe.com**

Mobile App: **SchoolCafe Family Hub**

Make sure your student knows their ID number, entered at point of sale to receive meals and purchases.

We encourage filling out 2026-2027 Free & Reduced applications, they can be sent to us throughout the school year.

For those that qualified in school year 25-26, new applications need to be filled out each year before Oct. 1st.

Sincerely,

Courtney Haines

Food Service Director, Coventry & Andover Public Schools