

5.003 Lunch Plan and Service

Ascend Leadership Academy's Board of Directors' goal is to provide a quality nutritious lunch to all students who need it due to financial hardship. The lack of a school provided lunch shall not be a barrier for students who want to attend Ascend Leadership Academy.

Free and Reduced Lunch

Although ALA will not participate in the National School Lunch Program, ALA shall use the same family income standards to identify students who qualify for free or reduced lunch. ALA will use the qualifying criteria below to identify students who will qualify for free and reduced lunch:

Free Lunch: Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the Federal poverty level are eligible for free school-provided meals.

Reduced Lunch: Children from families with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-priced school-provided meals.

Full-Price Lunch: Children from families over 185 percent of poverty pay full price for school provided meals.

ALA's administration will develop and distribute a form to be filled out by every student family that identifies their income with respect to the poverty level. This form will be distributed and collected at the beginning of each school year. The data collected in this form will be confidential and kept in each student's cumulative record.

School Lunch Plan

Ascend Leadership Academy will ensure that every child has a meal on a daily basis. Students will have the opportunity to bring their own lunch or pre-order their lunch from ALA's selected vendors. ALA will utilize an online ordering system where families can select food options from local restaurants who have agreements with ALA. The vendors will then deliver the meals to the school for distribution on the date assigned.

As a part of the contract with local vendor(s), ALA shall require that the contracted vendor(s) to provide lunch at no charge or at a reduced cost for qualifying students.

All meal options provided by ALA's lunch vendors will meet the nutritional guidelines of the National School Lunch program. The online system will manage all payments and food orders to help with the efficient distribution of meals.