

**CREC Food Service Program Information  
for Parents**



**Contact:** Christopher Scoppetta RDN, Food Services Program Coordinator  
Office: 860-509-3793 Fax: 860-528-9830 cscoppetta@crec.org

**Meal Programs/Sponsorship:**

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides children nutritionally balanced, low-cost, or free lunches each school day. CREC also offers breakfast and after-school snack programs in some schools. CREC sponsors meal programs in most locations; however, some CREC sites are sponsored by other School Food Authorities (SFA). The Food Service Program Coordinator handles coordination of meal programs among the different sponsors and towns. Please contact the Food Service Program Coordinator if you have questions about sponsorship. See the site list at the end of the document for more details.

**School List**

Site	SITE NUMBER	SFA	CEP Certified
CREC Discovery Academy High School	13	WETHERSFIELD	No
CREC The Academy of Science and Innovation	10	NEW BRITAIN	Yes
CREC Computer Science and Engineering Middle	50	EAST HARTFORD	Yes
CREC - Glastonbury/East Hartford Magnet School	1	GLASTONBURY	Yes
Montessori Magnet School (CREC)	31	HARTFORD	Yes
CREC Academy of Aerospace & Engineering Elementary	7	ROCKY HILL	No
CREC Museum Academy	10	BLOOMFIELD	Yes
Pre K - Annex - Progress Drive		WETHERSFIELD	No
Ana Grace Academy of the Arts Elementary Magnet	07	CREC	Yes
Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts High School	64	CREC	Yes
International Studies Middle School	04	CREC	Yes
John Allison Polaris Center	01	CREC	Yes
CREC Academy Computer Science and Engineering High School	52	CREC	Yes
Reggio Emilia Magnet School for the Arts	03	CREC	Yes
University of Hartford Magnet School	02	CREC	Yes
CREC International Studies High School	61	CREC	Yes
Academy of Aerospace & Engineering High School	51	CREC	Yes

### **Free and Reduced Priced Meals:**

CREC has now moved all the CREC-sponsored schools to Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) status, which allows CREC-sponsored schools to serve all students at no charge each day regardless of economic status. Students may still purchase a second meal or la carte items. Most of the CREC Magnet schools are CEP, however, there are still a few schools that will process meal applications. Please, see the list of schools at the end for more information.

For non-CREC sponsored, non-CEP sites, State-approved family meal applications are prepared and distributed to parents at the beginning of each school year. Some students that qualify for free meals due to their participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps) are automatically eligible for free meals if their data is submitted to CREC from the Department of Social Services. Meal eligibility is determined for the entire school year and carries forward for 30 operating days into the next school year unless new meal application information is submitted. The sponsoring districts process the meal applications based on the Federal guidelines and are the determining officials in non-CREC sponsored programs. Verification of the meal application information submitted via a sample of households qualified for free or reduced meals must begin on October 1 of each year. Parents must provide documentation/proof of their application information by November 15<sup>th</sup> if selected.

[Wethersfield Applications](#)

[Rocky Hill Applications](#)

### **Payment for Meals:**

Students not qualified for free meals must pay for their meals at either the reduced or full price based on their eligibility status. Meal prices are determined by the Magnet School Office and Operations Department, or by the sponsoring district. Online prepayments are available to parents in many CREC sponsored schools at the [MySchoolBucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) website, or through the non-CREC sponsored town online payment portals. Look under the “For Parents and Students” section for your school at the [www.crecschools.org](http://www.crecschools.org) website for more meal program and payment information. Parents/students may also pay at the school, but prepayments are highly preferred. Parents that do not provide payments for their child’s meals should send meals from home with their child. Although credit for meals may be offered, it is not required by the State, and funding for unpaid meals cannot come out of any school lunch account funds.

[Wethersfield](#)

[Rocky Hill](#)

### **Ala Carte Payments:**

If a student at any location would like an Ala Carte item or a Second Meal, they can purchase at full price. Ala Carte Items may vary in price as they are determined by the SFA. Online prepayments are available to parents in many CREC-sponsored schools at the <http://www.myschoolbucks.com> website or through the SFA-sponsored town online payment portals. (Please, see links above and below)

[Glastonbury](#)

[New Britain](#)

[East Hartford](#)

[Wethersfield](#)

[Rocky Hill](#)

### **Healthy Food Certification:**

Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that each board of education or governing authority for all public schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (including the Connecticut Technical High School System, charter schools, interdistrict magnet schools and endowed academies) must certify annually to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) whether the district will follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards for all foods sold to students separately from reimbursable school meals. **All CREC Schools participate in this program.**

The Connecticut Nutrition Standards apply to all sources of food sales on school premises at all times including, but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias and any fundraising activities on school premises. **Only approved items may be sold in all CREC schools.** Districts that opt to implement healthy food certification (HFC) receive an additional 10 cents per lunch, based on the total number of reimbursable lunches (paid, free and reduced) served in the district in the prior school year.

### **State Competitive Foods Regulations:**

Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies apply to all public schools that participate in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs. The sale or dispensing of candy to students is prohibited anywhere on school premises from 30 minutes before the start of any state or federally subsidized meal or milk program (National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, After-School Snack Program and Special Milk Program) until 30 minutes after the end of the program. Any food and beverage sales held anywhere on school premises during this time frame must comply with this regulation, including beverages that meet the requirements of state statute and food that meets the Connecticut Nutrition Standards. Regulations also prohibit coffee, tea and soft drinks during this time frame.

[CSDE Competitive Foods](#)

### **State Beverage Requirements:**

Only five categories of beverages can be sold to students in public schools at all times and from all sources including, but not limited to, cafeterias, vending machines, school stores and fundraisers. This statute applies to all public schools, regardless of whether they participate in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs or healthy food certification (see “Healthy Food Certification”). Beverages that do not meet the statutory requirements can be sold to students only if the board of education votes to allow exemptions and the beverages are sold at the location of events that occur after the school day or on the weekend, provided they are not sold from a vending machine or school store. Prohibited beverages include soda (regular and diet), coffee (regular, decaffeinated and iced), tea (regular, herbal and iced), hot chocolate, sports drinks, energy drinks, and any other beverages that do not meet the statutory requirements.

[CSDE Beverage Requirements](#)

### **Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (Student Wellness Policy):**

The Capitol Region Education Council policy #6142.10 (a) recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to physical well-being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. CREC is committed to providing a learning environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education, and regular physical activity as part of the total educational experience. In a healthy school environment, students will be exposed to, and participate in, positive nutritional and lifestyle practices that can improve student achievement. Look under the “For Parents” link at the top of the [crecschools.org](http://crecschools.org)

webpage for more information concerning Health Services or the following Health and Wellness resource link under Food Service Program Information:

[CREC Wellness Policy](#)

### **Civil Rights Requirements:**

Federal legislation establishes regulations and requirements for recipients of federal funds to prohibit discrimination and ensure equal access to all programs and activities of the recipients. Based on these requirements the U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination in Child Nutrition Programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability and sex.

#### ***Nondiscrimination Statement that must be posted in meal service areas (And Justice for All Posters):***

*In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.*

*Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.*

*To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:*

1. **mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

