

this grant and provide this benefit to our school community. These benefits became effective as of July 1st, 2026.

Important notes to consider with these changes to the Food Services program:

- Families will no longer need to fill out meal benefit applications. All students will have the same free meal status.
- A “permission to serve meals” form MUST be on file for any family who does NOT wish to participate in the food services program. If you do not want your student to receive any food from the cafeteria, you may fill out a form and send the form to the Food Services Manager. If you wish to continue to allow your student to participate in the Food Services Program, no action is needed.
- Only one meal per meal period per student will be provided for free. All additional foods will need to be purchased, including second meals, additional quantities, etc.
- Meals must meet the minimum meal pattern requirement to be considered a free meal. Any meal that does not meet the minimum meal pattern requirement cannot be considered a reimbursable meal and must be charged as a la cart items at cost to the student.
- If your student occasionally or frequently asks for a second meal or additional food, we encourage families to carry a positive balance in the account to cover the cost of the meals. Only students with a positive balance will be allowed to purchase additional food. Charging a negative amount to accounts will not be allowed.
- Refunds will be available to any family who wishes not to carry a positive balance in their account. Please contact the Food Services Manager to initiate the refund process. Refunds will take a few weeks to be delivered.
- KK Food Service Program information and forms can be found at <https://www.kennedykrieger.org/schools-and-education/menus>

Please feel free to contact the Food Services department with any questions. We are happy to share this exciting update as we continue to provide our students with innovative menus, scratch cooking, and delicious healthy foods.

Take care,

Matt Palermo
Food Services Manager

If you need language assistance/support with this communication, please send an email to ACTOFFICE@kennedykrieger.org

Si necesita asistencia / apoyo con el idioma para esta comunicación, envíe un correo electrónico a ACTOFFICE@kennedykrieger.org

إذا احتجت مساعدة أو دعم لغوي في هذا التواصل، رجاءً أرسل إلى الإيميل التالي

ACTOFFICE@kennedykrieger.org

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[Quoted text hidden]

Brian Sanders <wbsanders@gmail.com>
To: PalermoM@kennedykrieger.org

Thu, Jul 16, 2026 at 4:40 PM

Hello,

Is there a list of ala cart options? Nickolaus' indicates that there aren't many available choices for him, so I'd to know what is available.

Thank you.

[Quoted text hidden]

Brian Sanders <wbsanders@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 16, 2026 at 4:47 PM

I would also like to add that Nickolaus has indicated that some of the whole fruit served at school (such as apples, oranges, and bananas) has visible fingernail indentations and what appear to be bite marks. I am concerned about the sanitary implications of this and wanted to bring it to your attention.

Are students involved in the preparation or handling of school meals in any capacity? I would appreciate any information you can provide.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brian Sanders

[Quoted text hidden]

Palermo, Matthew <PalermoM@kennedykrieger.org>
To: Brian Sanders <wbsanders@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 20, 2026 at 9:13 AM

Good Morning,

A la cart items vary depending on what we source, but are all smart snack approved by the USDA standards and generally include the following

Assorted chips

Whole grain cookies

Granola bars

Fresh cut fruit

Fresh whole fruits

Other snacks such as goldfish, cheese itz, teddy grahams, and various items you would typically find in a child's lunch box

I can assure you that we inspect our foods daily and would not serve foods that have been bitten into or have any rotten spots on them.

Take Care,

Matt Palermo

Food Services Manager

Kennedy Krieger Institute - School Programs

[3825 Greenspring Ave, Baltimore, MD 21122](#)

Phone: (443) 923-7825

Fax: (443) 923-7850

Email: Palermom@kennedykrieger.org



From: Brian Sanders <wbsanders@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2026 4:47 PM
To: Palermo, Matthew <PalermoM@kennedykrieger.org>
Subject: Re: Important KKSP Food Services Update

[Quoted text hidden]

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Brian Sanders <wbsanders@gmail.com>
To: "Palermo, Matthew" <PalermoM@kennedykrieger.org>

Wed, Jul 22, 2026 at 1:56 AM

Mr. Palermo,

Please allow me to clarify.

Nickolaus tells me that the whole fruit is kept in a location where every student waiting in line can freely touch it before making a selection. According to him, students routinely handle multiple pieces of fruit and, in some cases, press their fingernails into the fruit while deciding—or not deciding—which one to take.

My concern is not that the school is knowingly serving fruit that has been bitten into, but rather that the current method of displaying the fruit allows it to be handled by numerous students before it is selected. I hope that, in the future, these items can be placed in a way that minimizes unnecessary handling so they do not become contaminated or otherwise adulterated by other students.

I appreciate your attention to this concern and look forward to hearing whether there are any plans to address it.

Sincerely,

Brian Sanders

[Quoted text hidden]

Palermo, Matthew <PalermoM@kennedykrieger.org>
To: Brian Sanders <wbsanders@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 22, 2026 at 9:25 AM

Good Morning,

Thank you for further explaining,

We will monitor the situation and keep a close on to see if there needs to be any adjustments to the locations of food displays in the cafeteria.

Take Care,

Matt Palermo

Food Services Manager

Kennedy Krieger Institute - School Programs

[3825 Greenspring Ave, Baltimore, MD 21122](#)

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