

NEWSLETTER

April 2026

Dear parent/guardian,

You are receiving this newsletter because you are participating in the School Meals Programme. In this newsletter, you will find useful information and important updates.

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1. What we achieved together in 2025

- **38,841 families** participated in the grocery card programme.
- **14,500 new parents/guardians** signed up for the grocery card.
- As a result, **55,116 children** were able to attend school with a full stomach.

Your involvement, together with that of the schools, helps us reach more and more children who are in great need of this support.

We encourage you to talk to each other about the grocery card. This way, more families will hear about this option, and parents can share valuable experiences and tips with one another.

2. The School Meals Programme will continue until the end of 2028

Good news! The government has confirmed that the School Meals Programme will continue **until December 2028**. Schools in both primary and secondary education can continue to participate. Your child can keep receiving support as long as your child's school remains eligible for the programme. Schools are eligible when at least 30% of their students come from low-income households.

Please note that your child's school may decide in the future to switch to Meals at School, which is run by the Youth Education Fund (Jeugdeducatiefonds). This decision lies entirely with the school itself.

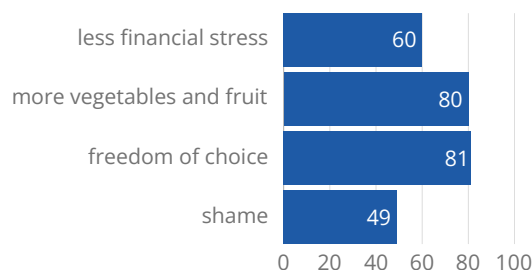
3. Results of the December 2025 survey

In December 2025, parents and schools completed an **evaluation survey**. On the next page, you can read some of the key results.



What parents experience:

- **60%** feel less financial stress.
- **80%** say their child eats vegetables and fruit more often.
- Parents appreciate the freedom of choice offered by the grocery card (**81%**).
- **49%** of parents sometimes find it difficult to ask for help due to feelings of shame.



What schools observe:

- Many schools indicate that **personal contact works best to reach parents**, for example via the parent portal, conversations with teachers, or during parent evenings.
- At the same time, schools note that **not all families who need help are being reached yet**, for example due to language or digital barriers.

4. Reporting a change of address

The grocery card is a VISA card. VISA cards automatically expire after three years. The first grocery cards are approaching their expiration date. In order to send you a new card on time, we need your current address. Have you moved during your participation in the programme? If so, please inform us of your new address as soon as possible via:

- Phone or WhatsApp: 097 010 204 851: **097 010 204 851**
- Email: **info@schoolmaaltijden.nl**

Please note: if you have already informed us of your new address or if your address has remained the same, you do not need to contact us.

You can continue using your current card until you receive the new one.

Do you have any questions? Please contact our [customer service](#).



Would you like to check the current balance on your card? You can quickly and easily view this yourself via [this page](#). Have you forgotten your access code? Then click on '[I forgot my access code](#)'.

5. Registering new children

New child at the same school?

Please inform the school. You do not need to register again.

New child at a different school?

You need to register again. The school can provide you with the unique registration link. In the registration form, we ask whether you have previously submitted an application for this school. Please select "no". Then complete the entire registration for the school. Please note: not every school can participate in the grocery card programme, as certain conditions apply.

Not sure whether your registration has been received correctly? Please contact our [customer service](#).

6. Webinar: tips for healthy and affordable food choices

In February, the Netherlands Nutrition Centre (Voedingscentrum) organised the webinar '**What food and drinks should you give your child to take to school?**'. During this webinar, experts share practical tips on healthy, affordable, and easy lunches and snacks.

You can watch the webinar via [this link](#). The webinar is in Dutch.

In closing

We do our best to improve the programme every day, together with you and the schools. Do you have any questions? Please visit www.schoolmaaltijden.nl/vragen or contact our [customer service](#).

