

Monday, November 3, 2025

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

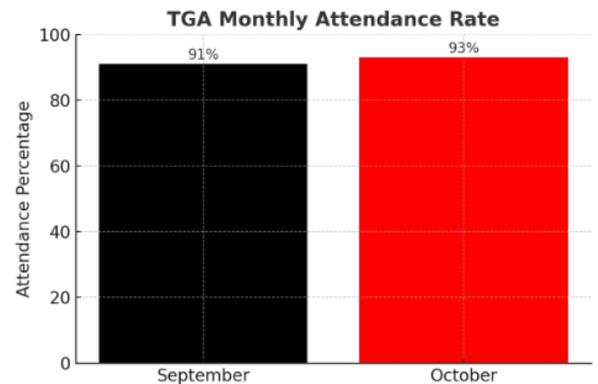


The
GREAT
Academy

ATTENDANCE

At The GREAT Academy, we know that every day counts! Our goal this year is a 97% attendance rate, and we need your help to get there. When students attend school every day, they stay connected to their learning, build strong relationships, and are better prepared for success. Even missing one or two days a month can add up and make it harder to keep up. Let's work together to make daily attendance a priority—because showing up is the first step toward reaching greatness!

Our yearly goal is 97%



NIGHTLY READING

Reading every night helps students build stronger vocabulary, improve comprehension, and develop a lifelong love of learning. Just 20 minutes a night can make a huge difference—students who read regularly grow their reading skills, confidence, and imagination. Encourage your child to make reading a daily habit—together, we can turn small moments into big learning gains! All middle schoolers and 11th graders have 30 minutes of reading each night as a daily assignment for class.

IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE

United Way of North Central New Mexico: Dial 2-1-1 or visit their website for guidance on local resources for food, utilities, and other essential needs.

Food: Contact organizations like [The Storehouse New Mexico](#) or use the [NM Food Finder Map](#) to locate food assistance.

Utility assistance: The [New Mexico Gas Company / HEAT NM Program](#) and PNM Financial Assistance Programs offer help with utility bills.

Mental health: The [New Mexico Crisis and Access Line](#) can be reached at 1-855-NM CRISIS, and the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available 24/7.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Tue. Nov. 4** - No School - Election Day
- **Fri. Nov. 7** - Remote Day
- **Thur. Nov 13** - RoadRunner Food Bank Service Learning
- **Tue. Nov 18** - ASVAB - 10-12th grades
- **Nov. 26-28** - No School - Thanksgiving Break
- **Tue. Dec. 2** - Popejoy - Nutcracker Ballet

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN ASSISTANCE

During a government shutdown, New Mexico families can find resources through the state's Department of Workforce Solutions for unemployment benefits, the New Mexico Health Care Authority for programs like SNAP and NMWorks, and the United Way's 211 helpline for assistance with food, utilities, and other needs. Various non-profits and federal programs also offer assistance, such as food banks and special loans for federal employees.

STATE/FEDERAL PROGRAMS

New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions:

Furloughed federal employees can apply for unemployment insurance. Work search requirements are waived for furloughed federal claimants.

New Mexico Health Care Authority (HCA): You can still apply for programs like SNAP and NMWorks (TANF). However, benefit issuance and eligibility determination may depend on federal funding availability.

LIHEAP: The LIHEAP Clearinghouse can provide information on programs that help with low-income energy costs.

Public assistance: The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) can provide information on applying for public assistance.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund (FEEA):

Offers interest-free loans for certain hardships. Eligibility criteria apply.

Air Force Aid Society (AFAS): Provides zero-interest loans to Airmen, Guardians, and their families to cover basic living expenses during the shutdown. Visit afas.org for more information.

MyFEDBenefits: Provides a "Shutdown Assistance Map" that may include loans for federal employees.

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE): Offers grants for members. More information can be found on the NARFE website.

FREE FOOD FOR KIDS

ABQ Sweet Spot

9250 Golf Course Rd NW, Suite D, Albuquerque, NM 87114

How about a little sweetness during tough times? Beginning November 1st, kids under 16 get a free cupcake. No questions asked. Child must be present. Limit 1 cupcake per child.

Afghan Kebab House

218 Gold Ave SW, Albuquerque, NM

Starting November 1, Afghan Kebab House is offering free kids' meals for families affected by the SNAP pause. Each kids' meal includes: 1 Skewer Chicken Tikka Kebab with Rice, 1 Flatbread (Leek or Potato), and 1 Mantoo. No purchase necessary. No questions asked. Simply mention "Afghan Kebab Kid's Special." Kids must be present for dine-in; one meal per child.

Albuquerque Nutrition

2114 Juan Tabo Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM

Starting November 1, families affected by recent SNAP changes can receive free kids' menu items. Available options: Classic Cheese Pizza + Kids Drink, Classic Waffle + Kids Drink, or Kids Shake. No purchase necessary. Kids must be present in-store.

Baked by Christina

Saturday at the Downtown Growers Market on 11/1

Free sack lunches for anyone who needs it. One lunch per person or child, no questions asked.

The Burrow Café

12501 Candelaria Road Northeast, Albuquerque, NM 87112

Free Kids' Menu Items starting November 1 for families affected by SNAP changes.

Available options: Classic oatmeal with brown sugar and maple syrup, Two eggs (any style) with toast or a plain crepe, Kid-sized ham and cheese crepe. Kids must be present. One item per child per visit. No purchase necessary. No questions asked.

Burrito Baby

7400 Montgomery Blvd NE #12, Albuquerque, NM

Free Kid's Burrito beginning November 1 for families affected by the SNAP shutdown.

Available options: Any small breakfast or lunch burrito. Kids must be present. One per child. No purchase necessary. No questions asked.

Chicken Salad Chick

10621 Unser Blvd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114

2100 Louisiana Blvd NE, Suite 825, Albuquerque, NM 87110

Free Kid's Meal for any child visiting until SNAP benefits are restored. Limit one meal per child; kids must be present for dine-in. No purchase necessary. No questions asked.

Chile Chicken Nashville Hot Chicken

3005 Eubank Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111

Free meals for children while supplies last. For children 12 and under. One meal per child, and children must be present.

The Crêpe Brûlée

6001 San Mateo Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM

Free Dessert for Kids Every Wednesday until SNAP benefits are restored. Offering one free menu item or a custom ice cream cup to children 10 and under every Wednesday. No purchase necessary. Kid must be present.

Delectable Baking

2740 Northern Blvd NE, Rio Rancho, NM, United States, New Mexico

Beginning November 1st, offering free sack lunches, snacks, and pantry items for children and the elderly. Must be present in the store. Just grab what you need and go. No questions asked. Also collecting non-perishable items and snack packs for kids.

El Catrin Mexican Kitchen

Food truck, keep an eye on their Instagram account for current locations

Free breakfast tacos for kids. They are at the CNM Main Campus every Monday & Thursday at 9 am. Bring your child for a warm taco to start the day.

Enchanted Grazing Co.

Text (505-394-8945) or Instagram DM to arrange pickup.

20 free lunch boxes for kids each week until the government shutdown is over.

Flamez Fusion

12118 North Highway 14, Cedar Crest, NM 87008

Kids eat free until SNAP benefits are restored. No questions asked. No purchase necessary. Child must be present. One meal per child.

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FREE FOOD FOR KIDS

Fit & Fabulous Nutrition

2500 Central Ave SW Suite 300, Albuquerque, NM

All kids eat free throughout November at Fit & Fabulous Nutrition! Enjoy pancakes, donuts, and lemonade at no charge.

The Girls' Coffee House

915 Yale Blvd SE, Suite A, Albuquerque, NM 87106

Free family meals beginning November 1st until SNAP benefits are restored. Each child and up to two accompanying adults, or any disabled community member, will receive a free hot dog or peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

The Homestead Cafe

40 Tramway Road Northeast, Albuquerque, NM

Free meals (sandwich, drink, and snack) for kids. Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Also collecting non-perishable food.

The Hopper Pub & Pizzeria

2400 Louisiana Blvd NE, Suite 200, Albuquerque, NM 87110

Free Small Kids Pizza starting November 1 until SNAP benefits are restored. One per child. Kids must be present. No questions asked.

Horizon Bagels & Café

4000 Louisiana Blvd NE, Suite D, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Beginning November 1, Horizon Bagels & Café is offering one free bagel with cream cheese per child until SNAP benefits are restored. Mention "Horizon Kids Special." No questions asked. Child must be accompanied by an adult.

I Scream Ice Cream

2000 Carlisle Blvd SW, Albuquerque, NM

All furloughed federal employees get 50% off ice cream or espresso products. Even though ice cream doesn't seem essential, a little bit of joy during tough times never hurts. All kids get a free kids cup with a paying adult until SNAP benefits are re-instated.

Juice Ritual

3617 Wyoming Blvd NE Suite C, Albuquerque, NM

Free Smoothies for Kids until all SNAP benefits are restored. Each child can receive one free smoothie per visit. No purchase required, no questions asked. Kids must be present.

Kap's Diner

5801 Central Ave NE #1701, Albuquerque, NM 87108

Free kids meals for all children under 18. No questions asked. Also, Kap's is extending its \$4.95 breakfast special to 7 days a week from 7-11 am.

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue

2340 Grande Blvd. SE, Ste. D, Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Starting November 1, families can visit L&L Hawaiian Barbecue in Rio Rancho for a free child's meal—no purchase necessary, no questions asked. Child must be present. In-store only.

Le Bakery

1924 Juan Tabo Blvd NE Suite D, Albuquerque, NM 87112

Free Kids' Meal Breaks beginning November 1. Each child can receive one free meal: Cheesy Bread, Egg Sandwich. Made with love and care. These aren't regular menu items but homemade breakfasts the owner makes for her own children. No purchase necessary. Kids must be present.

Meraki Coffee + Market

5900 Eubank Blvd NE Albuquerque, NM 87111

Free Breakfast Sandwich for children until SNAP benefits are restored. One item per child. No questions asked.

Mrs. Sprinkles Ice Cream Parlor

3107 Eubank Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111

Free Mini Scoop of Ice Cream (with sprinkles!) starting November 1 for children affected by the SNAP shutdown. Child must be present. Customers can also "Pay It Forward" by prepaying for another child's treat.

Napoli Coffee

3035 Menaul Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM

Free Kids' Meals beginning November 1 and continuing until SNAP benefits are restored.

Available options include: Toasted Bagel with Cream Cheese, Butter, or Jam, Breakfast Burrito with Bacon, Sausage, or Beans, Oatmeal with Dried Fruit & Brown Sugar, Turkey & Cheese Sandwich with Chips, or Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich with Chips. No purchase necessary. No questions asked. One item per child per visit. Child must be present.

Neecy's Treats

3015 Glorieta Meadows Drive, Rio Rancho, NM

Free Sweet Treats for Kids beginning November 1, offered daily. Kids can stop by any day of the week to grab a sweet treat, stickers, and coloring pages during the SNAP pause. One per child per day. No purchase necessary. No questions asked. Just a community mom doing her part to keep kids smiling.

New Mexico Pinon Coffee

4545 Alameda Blvd, Albuquerque, NM 87113

5222 4th St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107

1761 Rio Rancho Blvd SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124

2781 57th St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120

2235 Wyoming Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112

While SNAP benefits are suspended, parents can stop by any NM Pinon Coffee location (excluding the Sunport location) and get a free biscochito donut. One donut per child. The child must be present. No purchase necessary.

O'Hare's Grille & Pub

4100 Southern Blvd SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Kids eat free while SNAP benefits are on hold. Choose from PB&J, grilled cheese, or corn dog. Parent and child (ages 1-18) must be present. Valid for dine-in or to-go. No purchase necessary.

Old Town Pizza Parlor

108 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104

Beginning November 1 and continuing until SNAP benefits are restored, children can enjoy a free slice or meal from the kids' menu. Dine-in only. One meal per child. Child must be present.

Our Daily Bread of Life

Porch Bakery in Rio Rancho

Free bacon, egg, and cheese breakfast burrito for children present on Saturdays at 10am. Call for the exact location.

Peter Piper Pizza

3109 San Mateo Boulevard, Albuquerque, NM, 87110

9260 Golf Course Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114

Beginning Nov. 3, both Peter Piper Pizza locations in Albuquerque will offer \$2.99 one-topping personal pizzas for kids 15 and under, available Monday through Friday from 2-5 p.m.

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FREE FOOD FOR KIDS

Pizza 9

All participating Pizza 9 locations

Starting November 1, children ages 16 and under can receive a free 7" cheese or pepperoni pizza until SNAP benefits are restored. Dine-in or carry-out. Limit one pizza per child per day. No purchase necessary.

Rail Yards Operation SNAP Gap

7200 Montgomery Blvd NE STE A2, Albuquerque, NM 87109

If your household has been effected by the SNAP benefits reductions/lapses, please sign-up for a FREE Veggie Box. [Sign up here.](#)

Richie B's Pizza

7200 Montgomery Blvd NE STE A2, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Kids will receive a free 1 topping slice of pizza beginning November 1st. Child must be present

Rio Grande Social

10127 Coors BLVD NW, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Free cheese pizza for kids. Starting November 1 until SNAP benefits are restored. Also collecting groceries.

Say Cheese

1255 Bosque Farms Blvd, Unit F, Bosque Farms, New Mexico

Free grilled cheese for kids. Starting November 1 until SNAP benefits are restored. No questions. No purchase necessary. Children must be present.

Shake Lab

1540 Bosque Farms Blvd # A, Bosque Farms, NM 87068

Every child who visits Shake Lab will receive a free order of mini pancakes and a lemonade until SNAP benefits are restored.

Tacos El Muchacho Alegre

3107 Eubank Blvd NE, Suite 16, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87111

930 Sunset Road SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105

Free tacos or corndogs for kids. Starting November 1 until SNAP benefits are restored. No purchase necessary. Also collecting non-perishable food goods. Both locations will match your donations.

Tasty Pot NM

8050 Academy Road NE, Suite 101, Albuquerque, NM 87111

Free Kids Meals beginning November 1 for families affected by the SNAP pause.

Meal options include Kid's Panda Chicken + Rice, Kid's Popcorn Chicken, Mozzarella Sticks, or Fried Dumplings. Kids must be present for dine-in. Limit one per child. Just mention "Tasty Kid's Special."

Three Baby Birds Baking

Albuquerque, NM – Local home bakery

Free School Lunches starting November 3 until SNAP benefits are reinstated. Porch pickups: Wednesdays (before school) and Sundays (before the school week begins). Delivery may be available if transportation is an issue.

Turtle Mountain Brewing

905 36th Place SE, Rio Rancho, NM

7835 Enchanted Hills Blvd NE, Rio Rancho, NM

Ham and cheese sandwich, fruit snack, and juice box provided to children 12 and under. Child & parent must be present. 1 meal per child, per day, take-out only. No purchase necessary, no questions asked.

Urban Hotdog Company

10250 Cottonwood Park NW, Suite 400, Albuquerque, NM 87114

3507 Central AVE NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106

Free Classic Starter Hotdog for kids beginning November 1 until SNAP benefits resume. No purchase required. No questions asked. Kids must be present. Just mention "UHDC Kids Special."

Wing It Up

Food truck in downtown Albuquerque. Check social media for exact location.

Starting November 1, Wing It Up will offer free meals for kids and seniors until SNAP benefits return. Child must be present.

The Yeller Sub

7200 Montgomery Blvd NE G1, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Free Kid's Meal beginning November 1 until SNAP benefits are restored. Simply mention the "Got Your Back Kids Special." Kids must be present. One meal per child. No purchase required. No questions asked.