

CHARGING SCHOOL MEALS

The Board of Education recognizes that, on occasion, students may forget to bring meal money to school. To ensure that students do not go hungry, but also to promote responsible student behavior and to minimize the fiscal burden to the District, the Board will allow students who forget meal money to “charge” the cost of meals to be paid back at a later date subject to the terms of this Policy and Regulation. This policy applies to all paying students whether they are paying full-price or reduced-price.

- Students may charge a regular meal
- Students may charge a carton of milk so long as they have not already received a lunch that day.
- Students may not charge snacks, extras, or ala carte items.
- Non-students (Adults) are not permitted to incur a negative balance by charging.
- If a student develops an excessive charge balance, the school may deny charging or offer an alternative meal with the following components: grain, meat, fruit, vegetable, and milk, except in the event written notice has been provided as set forth below related to abuse of the policy. This additional meal charge remains the responsibility of the parent.
- A computer database will be maintained using the point of sale system for identifying and recording all charged meals, as well as for collecting repayments.

Notification and collection of negative balances will be made by automated phone call at least once per week throughout the year. If no effort is made to pay off negative balance the district may withhold student privileges and pursue other legal means of collecting payment. The District provides regular notification of negative balances through this system as a courtesy. However, even if a parent is not notified of the balance, they remain responsible for payment.

A student who abuses this policy may be denied a meal. If school authorities suspect that a student may be abusing this policy, written notice will be provided by the Building Principal or his/her designee to the parent informing the parent that if the child continues to abuse the policy, the child may lose the privilege of charging meals.

Information regarding charging school meals and this policy will be published on the District website and in appropriate school and publications. The District shall maintain a system of accounting for charged meals that follows State guidelines.

Free and Reduced Lunch

Students may be eligible for free or reduced lunch. There is only one application required per family. **Families must re-apply each school year starting in September.** Applications are available any time of year on the District website and at each school building. Eligibility will be determined by income and number of people (related and unrelated adults & children) in the household. Participation in this program has no negative effect on your local school district.

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Ref: Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. §1771 et seq.
National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. §1715 et seq.
Guidance Document, State Education Department, Child Nutrition Program;
“Establishing a Meal Charge Policy”, August 2005

Adopted: October 19, 2011

Revised: May 7, 2014