

MEAL CHARGE POLICY

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 minimize the fiscal burden to the District, the Board will allow students who may forget meal money to “charge” the cost of meals to be paid back at a later date subject to the terms of this policy.

To comply with the state guidelines and maintain a system for accounting for charging meals, regarding both full and reduced-price meals, the Board of Education, Superintendent and or his(her) designee shall:

1. allow only regular meals, meaning what is on the menu, excluding extras and snacks, to be charged;
2. send payment due notices home when the balance owed exceeds \$15;
3. students owing more than \$25 will not be provided snacks;
4. notify parents on a timely basis of outstanding charges, first by sending a copy of the charge home with the student, then a reminder by mail or telephone.

If the District suspects that a student may be abusing this policy, written notice will be provided to the parent that if he/she continues to abuse this policy, the privilege of charging meals will be refused.

Families may apply for free/reduced meals at any time during the school year. Applications are mailed to all families prior to the school year. In addition, applications are available at the District Office, all school offices and in the cafeterias.

The School District shall send a letter home to all parents on an annual basis prior to the opening day of school outlining the requirements of this policy.

References: 42USC 1779 (Child Nutrition Act of 1966)
42USC 1759 (f) (1); 1766(a) (National School Lunch Act)