

Unpaid Meal Charges

Students, parents, and guardians of students are expected to prepay meal costs. Should the balance in meal accounts fall to zero or below, the following policy is in effect.

The district's meal charging requirements are as follows. An account for students paying full or reduced price for meals may be established with the district. Students may charge no more than the equivalent value of ten meals to this account. Once the account falls to a negative balance, charging of ala carte or extra items to this account will not be permitted. Any student failing to keep his/her account solvent as required by the district shall not be allowed to charge further meals until the negative account balance has been paid in full. However, such students will be allowed to purchase a meal if the student pays for the meal when it is received. Students who have charged the maximum allowance to this account and cannot pay out of pocket for a meal will be provided an alternate meal consisting of a cheese sandwich and milk. The charge for an alternate meal is \$1.00. When a student's meal account balance falls below a balance sufficient to pay for two meals, the student and/or parent/guardian will receive payment reminders. At least one written or verbal warning shall be provided to a student and his/her parent or guardian prior to denying meals for exceeding the district's charge limit. If payment of the negative balance is not received within 5 working days of the maximum charge limit being attained, the debt may be turned over to the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection in accordance with board policy DP. If the debt is not paid within 10 days of mailing the final notice of the negative account balance under policy DP, it shall be considered bad debt for the purposes of federal law concerning unpaid meal charges. Payments for school meals may be made at the school, district office, or online. Again, students, parents, and guardians of students are expected to prepay meal costs. The district will provide a copy of this unpaid meal charges policy to all households at or before the start of school each year and to families and students that transfer into the district at the time of transfer. The terms of this policy will also be communicated to all district staff responsible for enforcing any aspect of the policy. Records of how and when it is communicated to households and staff will be retained.

Approved: March 13, 2017