TRI-VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS
STUDENT MEAL CHARGES

The Board desires to allow children to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day, minimize identification of children with insufficient funds to pay for school meals, and maintain the financial integrity of the District's food service account. This policy sets forth how the District will handle situations where children do not have money in their account or in hand to cover the cost of their meal at the time of service.

Preschool through 8th grade students who pay full price for meals may charge lunch up to a negative balance sufficient to cover the cost of one full lunch. Students may not charge breakfast. When a negative balance is reached, the parents/guardians/custodians of the student will be contacted by the District. An alternative lunch consisting of a peanut butter sandwich or yogurt, fruit, and milk will be provided to the student for up to five times for an additional $1.00 charge per alternative lunch until the entire negative balance is paid in full. Students with a negative account balance may not purchase snack or a la carte items with cash or by charge.

Preschool through 8th grade students who have been approved for reduced price meals may charge lunch up to a negative balance sufficient to cover the cost of one full lunch. Students may not charge breakfast. When a negative balance is reached, the parents/guardians/custodians of the student will be contacted by the District. A full lunch will be provided for up to five times for an additional $.40 charge per lunch until the entire negative balance is paid in full. Students with a negative account balance may not purchase snack or a la carte items with cash or by charge.

High School students in grades 9-12 who pay full price for meals or have been approved for reduced price meals may charge lunch up to a negative balance sufficient to cover the cost of one full lunch. Students may not charge breakfast. Students with a negative account balance may not purchase snack or a la carte items with cash or by charge.

Students in all grade levels who have been approved for free price meals will always be provided with a free breakfast and free lunch even if they have a negative account balance. Students with a negative account balance may not purchase snack or a la carte items with cash or by charge.

The District shall communicate regularly with the parents of students regarding collection of a negative meal balance. If a negative balance remains unpaid for four weeks or more, the Board reserves the right to take legal action to collect the debt.

This policy is to be provided in writing to all households at the start of each school year and to households transferring to the District during the school year. A copy of this policy shall also be provided to all District staff responsible for its enforcement.

LEGAL REFS: *Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies*, United States Department of Agriculture, SP 46-2017