

School Lunch Management Program File:

The Board shall provide the necessary facilities and personnel to operate a school lunch program. Each student in the school system will have the opportunity to secure nutritious **meals** at school. The purpose of the school lunch program is to serve well-balanced meals at a nominal charge.

All schools will offer free and reduced-price meals for qualified students and students eligible for free meals will also be offered free milk.

Cafeteria Meal Accounts

Students will be assigned a school meal account for pre-payments of meals and a la carte items purchased in the cafeteria. Students cannot be denied a reimbursable meal. Through the online meal account software, parents or guardians at no charge can monitor and set up to receive notifications of low or negative balances. However, there is a cost to the parent or guardian associated with making online payments. Every student will be held responsible for account balances associated with the purchase of cafeteria foods and beverages. It is understood that the parent or guardian of any student who purchases foods and beverages from the Child Nutrition Program will provide funds through pre-payment to the meal account, online payment system, or provide funds at the point of sale. No visitors or employees shall receive free meals or free a la carte foods, with the exception of all Child Nutrition Program employees who receive free meals. Adults may not charge meals or a la carte items; however, employees have a cafeteria meal account for prepayment of cafeteria purchases.

Cafeteria Meal Charges

The Board strongly discourages the charging of foods and beverages to meal accounts. Uncollected cafeteria charges constitute a bad debt and will not be allowed. Extra servings and a la carte purchases will not be allowed when a meal account has a negative balance. Parents may be notified of a negative balance on or before reaching a negative \$10 balance. Notifications will be from a child nutrition program, finance department, an all-call notification system, and/or any administrator at the school until the negative balance has been paid. Notifications may consist of an email and/or text message, and/or letter and/or phone call, and/or an all-call notification to the parent and/or guardian reminding parents to send payment to their student's lunch account. When meal account balances are not collected, the principal will identify a non-public local account school fund source to reimburse the Child Nutrition Program. Balance accounts must be closed out by the end of the school year.

SOURCE: Athens City Board of Education, Athens, AL

ADOPTED: Oct. 5, 1978; REVISED: Nov. 29, 1994; REVISED: June 18, 2009; REVISED: February 18, 2010; REVISED: September 15, 2016; REVISED: July 28, 2022

LEGAL REF.: The Code of Alabama, 16-22-3; P.L. 91-248, Part 245. Federal regulation 210.6(a); P.L. 93150; United States Department of Agriculture Regulations.