



June 16, 2023

Dear Parents,

To ensure students receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day Kyrene offers a lunch program at all schools, and a breakfast program where available. Recently, the Arizona Department of Education required that all public school districts adopt a policy to address unpaid school lunch balances. Our Governing Board approved Kyrene's [policy](#) during the meeting on August 8, 2017.

### **How will the new policy affect students?**

- Effective September 1, 2017, students will enter their student ID number prior to obtaining a meal.
- Food services will authorize the carrying of a negative/zero balance for up to two (2) charged meals. Parents will receive an email notifying them when a meal has been provided without available funds, requesting that parents deposit money into the student's lunch account.
- After the second occurrence, food services will provide the student with an alternate meal and notify parents via email until the family makes a deposit.

### **What is an "alternate" meal?**

An alternate meal, as approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture contains all nutritional components of the regular meal. Typically, the alternate meal will be a cheese sandwich, fruit/vegetable, and milk.

### **What if a student currently has a negative meal balance?**

The District is mailing individual letters with negative balance and payment information to households directly. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for payment on any negative balance.

### **What payment options are available to parents?**

- Parents can make deposits for meals online through [In-Touch receipting](#)
- Parents can bring cash or checks to school offices. Please make checks payable to Kyrene School District.

### **How do parents log into Linq Connect to view their child's account, including daily meal purchases?**

- Visit [linqconnect.com](http://linqconnect.com). You may also use this page to submit a meal application, view a child's balance, or view daily meal purchases.
- Payments are **not** made at this site.

Parents may apply for free or reduced-price meal benefits through the National School Lunch Program by completing an online application at [linqconnect.com](http://linqconnect.com). Select the Online Application Submission. Applications are also available at each school office and can be printed from the website above.

For any other food service related questions, visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) webpage or call 480-541-1660.

Sincerely,

Chris Herrmann  
Chief Financial Officer

## **EFDA ©**

### **COLLECTION OF MONEY / FOOD TICKETS**

#### **Meal Charges**

To ensure students receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day the District shall maintain a meal charge program that minimizes identification of children with insufficient funds to pay for school meals and maintain the financial integrity of the district food service fund account. Further, the District shall abide by program regulation 7 CFR 245.5 by providing parents and guardians of all children who attend the school in the District written notice information regarding the availability of reimbursable school meals and information about applying for free or reduced price meals. The District will promote activities to involve students and parents or guardians in the school meal programs and inform families about the availability of all District meal programs.

The District provides the following regarding meal charges:

- A. Students with no money on account or with a negative balance will be allowed to charge up to two (2) meals. After two (2) meals have been charged, an alternate meal will be provided.
- B. No lunch charges will be allowed under any circumstances during the last ten (10) days of the school year. Alternate meals will be provided during that time period in lieu of allowing students to charge meals.
- C. Parents/guardians will be notified as soon as possible of negative meal balances.

The District shall make a reasonable effort to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. The District shall ensure that efforts to collect delinquent debt do not have a negative impact on the student involved. Such efforts shall focus primarily on the parents or guardians responsible for providing for the student's funds for meals.

Adopted: August 8, 2017

LEGAL REF.:

The Child Nutrition Act (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.)

CROSS REF.:

JL - Student Wellness

Updated August 2021