

Descriptor Term: CHILD NUTRITION FREE AND REDUCED PRICE

Descriptor Code: EEA

Rescinds: EEA

Board Approved: 8/11/2008

Previously Approved: 2/14/2005

The Gulfport School District, recognizing the importance of providing the breakfast and lunch program for students, will take part in the National School Lunch Program

The administration will establish rules, regulations, and procedures which conform with state and federal (or other) requirements regarding participation in programs for free and reduced price meals and supplementary food. Regulations will be presented to the Board from time to time for its approval.

Legal Reference: Mississippi Code 1972, §37-11-7; 7 CFR Part 210; 7 CFR Part 215; 7 CFR Part 220

Student meal price categories are **free**, **reduced** or **paid**. Free and reduced eligibility is determined by family income and number of family members in the household. The Gulfport School District will adhere to these guidelines as established by the USDA. Students in the reduced category must pay the difference between paid cost and reduced reimbursed. Paying students must pay the full cost.

Maturity of students is a consideration to allow only elementary students to charge meals.

Federal guidelines require that all meal charges be cleared. Federal Management Circular 796-1 (Rev. 2) lists bad debts as a non-allowable expenditure of federal funds; therefore, losses on meals charged cannot be paid with state or federal Child Nutrition funds. As required by federal regulations, the monies owed to the Child Nutrition program are to be replenished prior to the end of the fiscal year.

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop a procedure for (1) the collection of monies from parents, or (2) the replacement of those monies from available sources other than federal, state, or local tax revenues.

Further, the Board attorney is to advise the Superintendent concerning appropriate procedures to utilize in attempting to collect unpaid monies from parents/legal guardians.

## **CHILD NUTRITION PROCEDURES - COLLECTING CHARGES**

1. Only one (1) charge for K - 5 students is allowed.
2. When a K-5 student charges, the cashier will give the student a note to take to the parents/guardian informing them of the charge. (Principal may elect to forego this part.)
3. The Child Nutrition department will give the Principal a daily list of charges.
4. When an individual student charge reaches \$10.00 a letter will be prepared by either the Child Nutrition Department or the Principal. This letter will then be sent home with other weekly items needing parent's notification.
5. If the principal finds that the collection process is not working they will decide whether to serve students a peanut butter and jelly sandwich with milk until charges are cleared.
6. Charges not collected at the end of the fiscal year will be cleared through use of prior year overages or the school's activity fund.