

# 8205 NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS SCHOOL FACILITIES

## Food Services

The District shall provide school meals which meet or exceed the nutritional standards required by state and federal school lunch programs.

### Meal Charge Policy

For the purpose of this policy, parent includes guardian, caretaker, relative and any adult responsible for the care of the child.

The goal of the Great Falls Schools District is to provide students with healthy meals each day. However, unpaid charges place a large financial burden on our Food Services Department. The intent of this policy is to establish uniform meal account procedures throughout the Great Falls School District and to ensure compliance with federal reporting requirements for the USDA Child Nutrition Program, and to provide oversight and accountability for the collection of outstanding student meal balances. The provisions of this policy pertain to regular and reduced priced school breakfast and lunch meals only. While the USDA Child Nutrition Program does not require that a student who pays for regular priced meals be served a meal without payment, the Great Falls Public Schools provides this policy as a courtesy to those students in the event that they forget or lose their lunch money, or have an unpaid balance in their lunch account.

Full Pay and Reduced Elementary students will pay for meals at the district's published standard rate. An elementary student may charge up to \$10 per student account. Once this limit is reached, the principal will be notified and the student will be offered a designated menu alternate at no charge.

Full Pay and Reduced Middle school students may charge up to \$10 per account. If this amount is reached, the principal will be notified and the student may go to the office to request a lunch voucher, in which the office will need to be reimbursed by the parent.

High School Students must pay at the cash register for all meals and a la carte purchases. When a student's account balance reaches zero, no a la cart items or meals can be charged. The student may request a lunch voucher from the principal or counselor, in which the office will need to be reimbursed. The cashier will refer violations of this section of the policy to the principal.

Free meal benefit- Free status students will be allowed to receive a breakfast and lunch each day. A la carte purchases must be prepaid or have cash at time of purchase. (Milk is considered ala carte.)

Parents are responsible for meal payment to the food service program. Account records are available for parents and students by setting up an account at [myschoolbucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com). Parents and students may also check with the food service staff at the school.

Students/parents may pay for meals in advance via [myschoolbucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com) or with a check payable to GFPS Food Services. A sufficient fund balance should be maintained in accounts to minimize the possibility that a child may be without meal money on any given day. Any remaining funds for a particular student will be carried over to the next school year. If a student is without meal money on a consistent basis, the administration will investigate the situation more closely and take further action as needed. If financial hardship exists, parents and families are encouraged to apply for free or reduced price meals for their child.

- 1 Cross Reference:
- 2 Policy 8200 – Food Services
- 3 Policy 8210 – Procurement Policy for School Food Purchases
- 4 Policy History:
- 5 Adopted on: June 26, 2017
- 6 Reviewed on: