

## FOOD SERVICES

The School Department recognizes that all children need nutritious meals in order to learn and has established a food service program to meet this need of our students. The goal of this policy is to establish guidelines for the purchase of school meals.

### **NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM**

The Bristol Warren Regional School District participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), which allows the department to offer free or reduced lunches to families that qualify. As a participant in this program, the School Department shall adhere to all current provisions and regulations of NSLP including, but not limited to, income eligibility guidelines, civil rights awareness training requirements, and reduced meal pricing.

### **MEAL PRICES**

On an annual basis, the Director of Finance and Administration shall submit recommended meal prices to the School Committee for review and approval. Reduced meal prices are set annually by the US Department of Agriculture.

### **MEAL CHARGES AND UNPAID BALANCES**

The School Department recognizes that on occasion students may forget or lose meal money or have no available electronic payment balances. In such cases at the elementary and middle schools, the student's statement of need shall be accepted and the meal will be charged to the student's account regardless of availability of funds. No students at this level shall be denied a meal. A student charging lunch shall receive a meal-pattern compliant lunch from the available menu options for that day. Elementary and middle school students may not charge "a la carte" items or snacks. Additionally, students may not purchase "a la carte" items or snacks until all charges on the account have been satisfied.

Generally, high school students are prohibited from charging food purchases. However, the School Department shall allow high school students to charge up to \$20.00 in school food purchases (excluding "a la carte" items and snacks) as a courtesy so that these students will have adequate notice that they are low on funds and adequate time to add additional funds to their accounts.

The school principal is responsible for recovering all unpaid charges.

At the end of each school year, the remaining amount of uncollected meal charges, if any, shall be paid to the Food Service Fund from the General fund. Uncollected meal charges will be considered bad debt expense and shall be accounted for appropriately.

Adopted: October 11, 2023