

## South Texas Independent School District Unpaid Meal Charge Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish consistent meal account procedures throughout the South Texas Independent School District. Pursuant to State and Federal Regulations all Child Nutrition Programs on the National School Lunch Program are required to “break even” at the close of each school year. The goals of this policy will ensure the completion of this goal on an annual basis.

The Unpaid Meal Charges Procedure is written to outline how South Texas ISD will communicate to parents/guardians about the process for managing unpaid meal charges on student accounts, the procedure for collecting balances that are negative, and to assure parents that no student should be embarrassed or confronted in collecting delinquent account balances.

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to sign up through the parent portal-SKYWARD where they can monitor and manage their student’s meal account. Benefits include:

- Low-balance email alerts
- Monitor account balance and meal transactions (no payment necessary to access this feature)
- Set up automatic payments
- Pay online:
  - Debit and credit card
- Cash or check payments are accepted at the school cafeteria. Free and reduced meal applications are available at every campus and online at [www.stisd.net](http://www.stisd.net)

### Free Benefit:

Beginning of 2024/2025 school year, South Texas isd will be participation in the CEP Program.

CEP is a federal reimbursement option for schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. It was permanently authorized nationwide by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Schools that elect CEP serve meals to all students at no cost to them.

CEP eliminates the need to gather household income information or claim meal reimbursements according to student eligibility status.

### Procedure for Collections:

Accounts with a Negative Balance will be contacted through Skyward Parent Portal:

- Skyward Parent Portal Message will be sent with balance and instructions as how to pay balance
- Email and Text Message with reminder and balance will be sent with instructions as how to pay balance
- Phone call will be made to Household to discuss payment and how pay balance

All students will be provided a meal regardless of balance, all purchases a la carte/Snack Bar will need to be purchased through cash or check

If you have any question, please contact our office at (956) 514-4230  
<https://www.stisd.net/student-life/nutrition>

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