

**Orange Ulster BOCES** participates in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and Breakfast School Program (SBP), Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Program (FFVP) and Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). All meals are offered at NO CHARGE to students under Orange Ulster BOCES through participation in CEP. If Orange Ulster BOCES is no longer awarded CEP meals will continued to be offered in accordance with all POLICY set forth below.

## **Meal Charge and Prohibition / Meal Shaming Policy**

The goal of the Orange Ulster BOCES is to provide student access to nutritious no- or low-cost meals each school day and to ensure that a pupil whose parent/guardian has unpaid school meal fees is not shamed or treated differently than a pupil whose parent/guardian does not have unpaid meal fees. Unpaid charges place a large financial burden on our school. The purpose of this policy is to insure compliance with federal requirements for the USDA Child Nutrition Program and, and to provide oversight and accountability for the collection of outstanding student meal balances to ensure that the student is not stigmatized, distressed or embarrassed. The intent of this policy is to establish procedures to address unpaid meal charges throughout the Orange Ulster BOCES in a way that does not stigmatize, distress or embarrass students. The provisions of this policy pertain to regular priced reimbursable school breakfast, lunch and snack meals only. The Orange Ulster BOCES provides this policy as a courtesy to those students in the event that they forget or lose their money. Charging of items outside of the reimbursable meals (a la carte items, adult meals, etc.) is expressly prohibited.

I. Policy Free Meal Benefit - Free eligible students will be allowed to receive a free breakfast and lunch meal of their choice each day. A la carte items or other similar items must be paid/prepaid. Reduced Meal Benefit - Reduced eligible students will be allowed to receive a breakfast and a lunch meal of their choice at no charge. A la carte items or other similar items must be paid/prepaid. Full Pay Students - Students will pay for meals at the school's published paid meal rate each day. The charge meals offered to students will be reimbursable meals available to all students, unless the student's parent or guardian has specifically provided written permission to the school to withhold a meal. A la carte items or other similar items must be paid/prepaid.