

School Meal Payments

The district is committed to ensuring that all students receive the nutrition they need to engage in active learning during the school day. In accordance with applicable federal guidance from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), this policy is intended to serve the purposes of meeting student needs, minimizing the identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals and maintaining the fiscal integrity of the district's school food service account.

Student meal accounts and meal charges

Students in grades 6-12 will not be permitted to charge lunches. Parents are encouraged to pre-pay for students paying full or reduced price for meals. The district shall ensure that parents have access to at least one no-cost method of paying for meal services, such as the ability to pay in person.

Students will be permitted to pay for meals and/or add funds to student accounts on the day of service. An alternate meal of milk, protein, fruit and a grain will be provided for any student who does not bring money to cover the cost of lunch and did not bring a lunch from home. Students can have no more than 5 alternate meals during the school year. There are no alternate meals for Breakfast.

If a student has money to purchase a full or reduced price meal at the time of the meal service, the student must be provided a meal. The student's money may not be used to repay previously unpaid charges if the student intended to use the money to purchase that day's meal.

Adults should never be permitted to charge a meal.

Elementary students in grades K-5 will have an account set up by the district. Once the negative balance of the account reaches \$40, an alternate meal will be provided until the balance is paid. A meal account balance remains with the student until the student is no longer enrolled in the district. During the last month of the school year, students will not be permitted to charge to their account. If the student does not have money, they will be provided an alternate meal.

Notification of low or negative balances

Notification of a negative or low balance on a student account will be provided privately by the districts infinite campus messenger system as well as the parent portal. Additionally, parents will be notified of the process for submitting applications for free or reduced price meal benefits. Any school meal debt accrued prior to the district's determination that the student is eligible for free or reduced lunch remains the parent's responsibility. If your child receives the reduced price meal benefit, you still must have money in your child's account in order to get a meal. (reduced price meals are .40) If you need help in filling out an application for Free and Reduced meals please contact either Roxanne Hein or Laura Martin Baxley at (970) 834-2876. Applications are mailed out to households in the middle of July or you can stop by the front office of each school or pick one up in each cafeteria.

Collection of meal charge debt

In collecting debt, the district will work with parents to establish repayment plans with payment levels and due dates appropriate to the household's particular circumstances. If the parent fails to participate in the payment plan, the debt may escalate collection methods. Collection efforts from one school year may continue into the following school year, including when the student transfers to a school outside of the district.

Annual notice

The district shall notify students and their parents about this policy at the beginning of each school year. Notification shall also be provided to those students who transfer into the district during the school year. Information about this policy may also be included in student handbooks, student enrollment or registration packets and/or posted on district and school websites.

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