

## “CHARGING” SCHOOL MEALS AND PROHIBITION AGAINST SHAMING

All schools in the district participate in the Community Eligibility Provision option of the USDA’s Food and Nutrition Services. This allows the district to provide free meals to all students in the district. Each student receives one meal per day per program (e.g., breakfast, lunch). If students wish to purchase additional meals or other food items, they must pay for those items at the time of the sale. The district does not permit charging to accounts for such “à la carte” items if students do not have funds available.

Staff members are allowed to purchase food from the district’s food services. However, all purchases must be paid for at the point of sale in cash. Staff members are not allowed to charge meals to be repaid later.

Ref: 42 USC §1759a (School Lunch Programs; Special Assistance Funds)

7 CFR Part 245 (Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Lunch)

*Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance and Q&A*, USDA FNS Memo SP 23-2017 (03/23/17), <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP23-2017os.pdf>

*Unpaid Meal Charges: Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments*, USDA FNS Memo SP 47-2016 (07/08/16), [www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cn/SP47-2016os.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cn/SP47-2016os.pdf)

*Overcoming the Unpaid Meal Challenge – Proven Strategies from Our Nation’s Schools*, USDA FNS Guidance Document (May 2017), <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP29-2017a1.pdf>

*New York State Legislation – Prohibition Against Meal Shaming*, NYSED Memo (5/1/18), <http://www.cn.nysed.gov/content/prohibition-against-mail-shaming>

*Meal Charge Plan Template*, NYSED (5/1/18), <http://www.cn.nysed.gov/content/meal-charge-and-prohibition-against-meal-shaming-policy-template>

Adopted: June 25, 2018

Revised: August 26, 2019

Revised: August 24, 2020

Revised: August 23, 2021

Reviewed: August 29, 2022

Revised: August 21, 2023

Revised: August 12, 2024

Reviewed: August 18, 2025