Great Falls School District

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS 8205

Food Services

The District shall provide school meals which meet or exceed the nutritional standards required by state and federal school lunch programs.

Meal Charge Policy

For the purpose of this policy, parent includes guardian, caretaker, relative and any adult responsible for the care of the child.

The goal of the Great Falls Schools District is to provide students with healthy meals each day. However, unpaid charges place a large financial burden on our Food Services Department. The intent of this policy is to establish uniform meal account procedures throughout the Great Falls School District and to ensure compliance with federal reporting requirements for the USDA Child Nutrition Program, and to provide oversight and accountability for the collection of outstanding student meal balances. The provisions of this policy pertain to regular and reduced-priced school breakfast and lunch meals only. While the USDA Child Nutrition Program does not require that a student who pays for regular priced meals be served a meal without payment, the Great Falls Public Schools provides this policy as a courtesy to those students in the event that they forget or lose their lunch money, or have an unpaid balance in their lunch account.

Full pay and reduced-price qualified students will be provided with a reimbursable meal at the district's standard rate and charged to the students' account.

Free meal benefit- Free status students will be allowed to receive a breakfast and lunch each day. A la carte purchases must be prepaid or have cash at time of purchase. (Milk is considered ala carte.)

Parents are responsible for meal payment to the food service program. Account records are available for parents and students by setting up an account at myschoolbucks.com. Parents and students may also check with the food service staff at the school or at the District Offices.

Students/parents may pay for meals in advance via myschoolbucks.com, with cash, or with a check payable to GFPS Food Services. A sufficient fund balance should be maintained in accounts to minimize the possibility that a child may be without meal money on any given day. Balances for a particular student will be carried over to the next school year. If a student is without meal money on a consistent basis, the administration will investigate the situation more closely and take further action as needed, which may include outstanding funds being turned into collections. If financial hardship exists, parents and families are encouraged to apply for free or reduced-price meals for their child.

Negative balances are communicated to parents/guardians via electronic notices, as a minimum form of communication.

Cross Reference:
Policy 8200 Food Services
Policy 8210 Procurement Policy for School Food Purchases

Policy History:
Adopted on: June 26, 2017
Revised on: October 26, 2026