

STUDENT MEAL CHARGES

The Board desires to allow children to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day, minimize identification of children with insufficient funds to pay for school meals, and maintain the financial integrity of the District's food service account. This policy sets forth how the District will handle situations where children who receive paid or reduced price meals do not have money in their meal account or in hand sufficient to cover the cost of their meal at the time of service.

Elementary students may charge two days of meals (includes breakfast and lunch), up to a maximum negative balance of \$7.90 for students paying full price, and \$1.40 for students paying a reduced price. When the maximum negative account balance is reached, the parents/guardians/custodians of the student will be contacted by the District and an alternative meal and milk will be provided to the student until the entire negative account balance is paid in full. A la carte items may not be purchased by charge to a student's meal account if it would result in a negative account balance, or if a negative account balance already exists.

Middle School and High School students are not permitted to charge a negative account balance for purchase of any food or beverage items.

No student is permitted to charge a negative account balance for purchase of any food or beverage items during the last two weeks of the school year.

The District shall communicate regularly with the parents of students regarding collection of a negative account balance. If a negative account balance remains unpaid for four weeks or more, the Board reserves the right to take legal action to collect on the debt.

A fee of \$1.75 will be charged for depositing money into a student's meal account by check. A fee of 3.9% of the total transaction will be charged for depositing money into a student's meal account by credit card. A single deposit may be directed into more than one student's meal account. Funds remaining in a student's meal account at the end of the school year will carry over into the next school year.

This policy is to be provided in writing to all households at the start of each school year and to households transferring to the District during the school year. A copy of this policy shall also be provided to all District staff responsible for its enforcement.

LEGAL REFS.: *Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies*, United States Department of Agriculture, SP 46-2017.

Adopted: September 25, 2017