

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 eligible to receive free or reduced price meals do not have money in their account or in hand to cover the cost of their meal at the time of service.

Students may charge any combination of meals up to a negative balance of \$15.00. Parents/guardians/custodians of the student will be contacted by the District when a student's meal balance falls to \$0.00, and again when a negative balance of \$15.00 is reached, at which time the District will provide an alternative meal and milk to the student until the entire negative balance is paid in full. With the exception of milk, students may only purchase snack or a la carte items with cash if they have a positive account balance.

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

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 14, 2017