

AR EF-R Food Services

Issued 6/17

Student Meal Accounts

All cafeteria purchases should be prepaid before meal service. The district offers a variety of methods for parents/legal guardians to fund their students' meal accounts including posting payments on myschoolbucks.com, in the cafeteria, send with students, or through the front office.

Charge accounts

A student may charge up to \$10.00 maximum at the primary, elementary, and middle schools. No charges are allowed at the high school. A student who charges a meal may not charge any à la carte items or additional items that would result in a cost above and beyond the base meal cost. Parents/Legal guardians will receive at least one written notification prior to a student being denied the ability to charge meals.

Food service employees and each building principal will work together to prevent meal charges from accumulating. Parents/Legal guardians are expected to pay all meal charges in full by the last day of the school year. Negative balances that remain will be charged back to the respective school.

Alternate meals

Once a student has received the maximum number of charged meals, he/she will be provided with an alternate meal consisting of a cheese sandwich, fruit, and milk. Students will not be charged for alternate meals. In order to safeguard the dignity and confidentiality of students, reasonable efforts must be used to avoid calling attention to a student's unpaid balances and/or inability to pay.

No student will be denied an alternate meal. If a student comes to school with no lunch and no money on an ongoing basis, food service employees or other mandated reporters will report this information to the building principal as this may be a sign of abuse or neglect, and the proper authorities will be contacted.

Modifications will be made to alternate meals to ensure that any students with medically documented special dietary needs are provided with appropriate accommodations.

Unpaid balances

Students with unpaid balances will not be denied a meal if they have money in hand for a meal on a given day.

The food service manager and other school personnel will coordinate communications to parents/legal guardians to resolve unpaid balances in meal accounts. Parents will be notified by a phone call from the food service manager and a note the first time a student charges a meal that takes their account to a negative status. These communications will include providing families with information about the free and reduced lunch programs and the programs' application process.

Parents/legal guardians are encouraged to discuss payment arrangements with the food service manager and building principal.

Surplus balances

At the end of the school year, surplus balances in student meal accounts for those students who pay full price for meals will be carried forward to the next year.

Students who graduate will be notified by the food service manager and given the option to receive a refund.

Dissemination of procedures

At the beginning of each school year, the information contained in this administrative rule and any associated procedures will be shared with administrators, principals, school food service professionals, and other district stakeholders charged with duties related to the school food services program. Parents/Legal guardians and students will be notified in writing of this rule and any associated procedures at the beginning of the year, upon transferring into the district, or upon transferring into a new school within the district.

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Lexington County School District Three