

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

Food Service

Charging Policy

The goal of the food service program is to provide students with nutritious foods that will enhance learning. The school nutrition program is an essential part of the education system and by providing good-tasting, nutritious meals in pleasant surroundings, we are helping to teach students the value of good nutrition.

The Board of Education (Board) has an agreement with the Connecticut State Department of Education to participate in one or more school Child Nutrition Programs and accepts full responsibility for adhering to the federal and state guidelines and regulations pertaining to these school Child Nutrition Programs. The Board also accepts full responsibility for providing free, reduced price and regular priced meals to elementary and secondary students enrolled in the District's schools. Meals are planned to meet the specified nutrient standards outlined by the United States Department of Agriculture for children based on their age or grade group.

Although not required by law, because of the District's participation in the Child Nutrition Programs, the Board approves the establishment of a system to allow a student to charge a meal.

The Board realizes that funds from the non-profit school food service account, according to federal regulations, cannot be used to cover the cost of charged meals that have not been paid.

Charging is not encouraged by the District, but on those occasions that a student does not have money, Elementary and Middle School students will be permitted to charge up to three (3) lunches without restriction on what they may choose. After the third (3rd) charge, an alternate meal consisting of a cheese sandwich, fruit and/or vegetable and milk will be offered to the student.

The cost for providing such alternate meals cannot be incurred by the food service program, and the charge for such alternate meals will be the same amount as the standard school meal or reimbursable meal and added to the student's outstanding balance.

High School students are permitted two charges meals. No alternative meal will be offered. Additionally, during the final three weeks of classes in May/June, there will be no charging allowed at the High School so that we may collect any negative balances of graduating students.

No snacks or a-la-carte items may be charged.

Any parent/guardian who anticipates a problem with paying for meals is encouraged to contact the Director of Fiscal Services and/or the applicable school Principal or Social Worker for assistance. The Board encourages all families who may have a child eligible for free or reduced

price meals to apply at any time during the summer or school year. New applications can be filed if there is a change in household income or in the number of household members, Applicants are responsible to pay for meals until the application for free or reduced price meals is completed and approved.

To facilitate payment in advance for school meals, the District uses the My School Bucks program located at www.myschoolbucks.com, an automated prepayment system, which allows parents/guardians to view their child's meal account balance and purchases, receive low balance notifications, as well as make deposits to their child's school meal account. Automated payments can take 24 hours to post to your child's account. Payment by cash or check can also be made to each school's Food Service staff.

Federal funds are intended to subsidize the meals of children and may not be used to subsidize meals for adults (teachers, staff and visitors).

This policy shall be placed on the District's website and published at the beginning of each school year at the time information is distributed regarding free and reduced price meals.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop regulations which address meal charging, collection of repayments and communication of the policy.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-215 Lunches, breakfasts and other feeding programs for public school children and employees.

10-215a Nonpublic school and nonprofit agency participation in feeding programs.

10-215b Duties of State Board of Education re feeding programs.

State Board of Education Regulations

Operational Memorandum #19-10, State of Connecticut, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

"Unallowable Charges to No-profit School Food Service Accounts and the Serving of Meals to No-paying Full and Reduced Price Students"

National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program; Competitive Foods. (7 CFR Parts 210 and 220, Federal Register, Vol 45 No. 20, Tuesday, January 29, 1980, pp 6758-6772

Policy Adopted: 8/24/2017