

Student Meal Account Balances

Each year, students forget, lose, and misuse their lunch tickets and money. For this reason, the Board adopts this policy to govern situations when students do not have lunch money or when their lunch accounts have insufficient funds.

For purposes of this policy, the term **ticket** means all forms of exchange, including daily, weekly or monthly paper tickets, money, cards, coins or tokens.

The Board shall permit students to incur reasonable charges for replacement lunch tickets or special meal arrangements, and parents/guardians shall be contacted for payment.

Reasonable charges shall not exceed ten dollars (\$10.00) per student for each school year.

Unpaid lunch charges for a student shall result in the school withholding the final report card until the charges are paid in full.

The district shall inform students and parents/guardians in writing of the district's policy regarding missing lunch tickets and the students' responsibility for their tickets. The notice shall be provided to all households at the time they begin participating in the lunch program.

Meals shall always be provided to students in pre-K, kindergarten, first, second and third grades and to disabled students who may be unable to take full responsibility for a lunch ticket.

Alternative methods of paying may be developed for students in pre-K, kindergarten, first, second and third grades and for disabled students unable to take full responsibility for a lunch ticket.

An alternate meal will always be provided to students in elementary grades (K-6).

Allowing charges to continuously accumulate can lead to financial losses to the school food service program and is unfair to the households that do pay for their meals. If unpaid charges become excessive, or the parent/legal guardian refuses to pay after being contacted, the district reserves the right to take steps deemed necessary to collect charges owed and to prevent further loss to the food service program. These actions could include provision of an alternative meal, initiating collection proceedings, notifying the social service agencies of child neglect and/or revocation of the household's meal charging privileges.