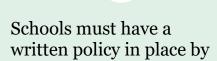
School Meals Charge Policy

Important Elements



July 1, 2017.

The policy must be made available to **existing** families and **new** families.

It is a school decision whether or not to allow meal charges.

If a student has money in hand for today's meal, they cannot be denied a meal.

Schools are not required to provide a meal to a paid student or a reduced student with a negative account balance.



Questions to Consider:

- 1. Are parents aware that they can apply for benefits anytime during the school year if they have a change in income and or household size? Emphasize confidentiality.
- 2. How do families pay or deposit money (cash, check, electronic fund transfer, credit or debit card)?
- 3. Are there specific rules about when, where and how students can pay?
- 4. Will cash or checks be accepted in the serving line?
- 5. How are parents notified of lunch account balances?
- 6. Who is responsible for tracking accounts?
- 7. Address à la carte, if applicable. Can à la carte items be charged or must students pay cash?
- 8. What level of deficit if any will be allowed (*specify a dollar amount or number of charged meals*)?
- 9. Will the school provide an "alternate" meal? If so, what is it?
- 10. Are all grades of students treated the same? For example, some districts have a different charge policy for elementary (*more lenient*) than middle school or high school.
- 11. Who is responsible for interacting with families to resolve unpaid accounts?
- 12. Will the district utilize a collection agency?
- 13. How is the debt reconciled at year-end?
- 14. Make the policy available to existing families and new families.
- 15. Keep the policy current and revise as needed.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

NUTRITION SERVICES 2017