

Students who are required to pay for meals are expected to provide payment at the time of service using one of the approved pre-payment methods on their individual account or a cash payment at the time of purchase. In situations where students are unable to pay for a meal on a particular day due to a lack of money, the following charge policies shall be followed:

- Students in grades preK-8 may acquire a negative balance up to \$10.00 in meals due to forgotten money for their meals. Students with a negative balance may not purchase a la carte items, with the exception of milk (purchased with cash). If a student's meal will exceed the negative balance limit of \$10.00, that student will be offered an alternative breakfast/lunch tray.
- High school students will need to have money to purchase meals/a la carte items. If a high school student does not have money for their meal, they will be offered an alternative breakfast/lunch tray. Charging is not permitted in high school cafeterias.
- Adults must have money at the time of purchase. Charging is not permitted in school cafeterias for adults.

Alternative Meals

- **Breakfast:** The alternative breakfast tray will consist of a milk and cereal selected by the manager.
- **Lunch:** The alternative lunch tray will consist of the option of two vegetables, a fruit, a milk, and a cold sandwich selected by the manager. Cafeteria managers may provide (based on product availability) a cold cheese, ham or turkey sandwich.
- **Special Diets:** An appropriate alternative breakfast/lunch tray will be provided to students who have a completed Medical Statement for Students with Special Nutritional Needs for School Meals on file in the cafeteria.

Negative Balances:

Once a student acquires a negative balance the cafeteria manager will check to see if the student has a free or reduced application on file. If the student does not have an application on file, the cafeteria manager will give one to the teacher for the student to take home and their caregiver to complete. A free/reduced lunch application can also be completed online.

The parent/guardian will be contacted if a student's account has a negative balance. Cafeteria managers will periodically identify students with low and negative balances and place ParentLink calls to the respective students' homes to inform parents of the students

account balance. Parents can add money to their student's account via K12PaymentCenter.com or by providing funds to the school cafeteria.

Negative balances on student accounts should be paid in the school cafeteria as soon as possible to prevent the student being subject to alternative meals. The CNS office at 810 Gillespie Street (910-678-2502) will accept payment for negative balances remaining on the account after the last day of school. Positive balances on student accounts shall be carried forward to the following school year.

Per the requirements of OMB A-87 (Federal Office of Management and Budget): "Bad debts including losses (whether actual or estimated) arising from uncollectible accounts and other claims, related collection costs, and related legal costs, are unallowable." In order to clear the outstanding charges, the caregiver has to issue a payment to Child Nutrition.

The Child Nutrition website will contain current links to the online Free/Reduced Lunch Application, the online pre-payment site, and the policy and procedures for handling students without money.

Approved by Superintendent: June 12, 2017.