

MEAL CHARGE POLICY

The Board of Education recognizes that on occasion, students may forget to bring meal money to school. To ensure that students do not go hungry, but also to promote responsible student behavior and minimize the fiscal burden to the district, the Board will allow students who may forget meal money to “charge” the cost of meals to be paid back at a later date subject to the terms in this policy.

To comply with State guidelines and maintain a system for accounting for charged meals, regarding both full and reduced-price meals, the Board shall:

1. allow only regular meals, meaning what is on the menu, excluding extras and snacks, to be charged;
2. limit the number of charges to three per student;
3. use the available point of sale system, which identifies and records all meals as well as collects repayments.

Charged meals must be counted and claimed for reimbursement on the day that the student charged (received) the meal, not the day the charge is paid back. When charges are paid, these monies are not to be considered “a la carte” transactions, as a section on the daily cash report or deposit summary reads “charges paid.”

Once a student reaches the limit of three charged meals, a district approved alternate meal will be provided to the child until the account is brought up to date.

Before denying any student the components of a meal as designated by the Federal guidelines, school food authorities (SFAs) shall carefully consider the negative consequences of such an action. Refusing Pre-K through Grade 5 students or students with disabilities is prohibited by New York State.

If SFAs suspect that a student may be abusing this policy, written notice will be provided to the parent that if he/she continues to abuse this policy, the privilege of charging meals will be refused.

The Superintendent of Schools shall be responsible for enforcement of these rules, and she/he shall designate the other personnel who are authorized to take action in accordance with such rules when required or appropriate to carry them into effect.

Ref: Child Nutrition Act of 1966
National School Lunch Act