
WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Students who are required to pay for meals are expected to provide payment in a timely manner. The Board recognizes, however, that students occasionally may forget or lose their meal money. In the event that a student is unable to pay for a meal on a particular day, the student may charge a reimbursable meal so long as it does not create a negative account balance that exceeds the value of three (3) days of meals (breakfast and lunch) based on current student meal prices. If a student is unable to pay for or charge a meal, the student will be served a designated alternate meal which will be provided at no cost to the student. Appropriate modifications to the alternative meal will be made when required by the student’s documented special dietary needs. To safeguard the dignity and confidentiality of students in the serving line, reasonable efforts must be used whenever possible to avoid calling attention to a student’s inability to pay.

Students may not charge a la carte purchases that will result in a negative account balance. Adults may not purchase any meal or a la carte item that would result in a negative account balance for that adult.

The child nutrition staff and principal shall work jointly to prevent meal charges from accumulating and shall make every effort to collect all funds due to the child nutrition program on a regular basis and before the end of the school term. Notices of low or negative balances in a child’s meal account will be sent to parents and the principal at regular intervals during the school year. If a parent regularly fails to provide meal money and does not qualify for free meal benefits, the child nutrition staff shall inform the principal, who shall determine the next course of action, which may include notifying the department of social services of suspected child neglect and/or taking legal steps to recover the unpaid meal charges. Parents are expected to pay all meal charges in full by the last day of each school year. Negative balances on student accounts will be carried forward to the following school year. However, the superintendent shall ensure that federal child nutrition funds are not used to offset the cost of unpaid meals and that the CNP is reimbursed for bad debt resulting from uncollected student meal charges prior to September 30 each year.

This policy and any applicable procedures regarding meal charges must be communicated to school administrators, school food service professionals, parents, and students. Parents will receive a written copy of the meal charges policy and any applicable procedures at the start of each school year and at any time their child transfers into a new school during the school year.

Legal References: Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.; National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq., 2 C.F.R. pt. 200; 7 C.F.R. pt. 210; 7 C.F.R. pt. 215; 7 C.F.R. pt. 220; United States Department of Agriculture Policy Memos SP 46-2016, 47-2016, and 23-2017, available at <https://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/regulations-policies/usda-policy-memos>; G.S. 115C-47(7), -47(22), -263, -264, -264.1, -450, -522; 16 N.C.A.C. 6H .0004; State Board of Education Policy CHNU-002

Adopted: May 4, 2021



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Make meal payments on the go!

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A New Application is required each school year.
Confidential information is secure.
One Application per household.

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