

Swartz Creek Community Schools

Child Nutrition Department

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Swartz Creek, MI 48473

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Policy Effective:

12/5/16

Meal Charging Guidelines

The purpose of having meal charging guidelines is to establish consistent clear meal account procedures through the district. There is a fine line between considering the fiscal integrity of the district and the solvency of the food service program while also meeting the nutritional needs of students.

Goals

- To ensure that students have a healthy meal and that no student goes hungry
- To treat all students with dignity and confidentiality in the serving lines
- To foster clear positive communications among staff, administrators, staff, students and parents/guardians
- To establish fair practices that can be used consistently through the district regarding meal charges and the collection of them
- To encourage parents/guardians to assume the responsibility of meal payments and to promote self-responsibility of their student

Meal Accounts

We strongly discourage meal charges, but understand that an occasional situation may occur. Meal charges are a temporary solution and are not intended to address broader issues of a parent/guardian's inability to pay for student meals. In those instances, an Application for free/reduced meal benefits should be completed which can be found in your school's office or online at www.LunchApp.com.

As a matter of practice, parents/guardians are encouraged to make payments in advance. Personal check and cash deposits are accepted daily at all registers. For convenience, deposits can be made by credit/debit card after setting up an account for the student on www.SendMoneyToSchool.com. Parents/guardians may view their student's lunch account at any time and sign up to receive emails alerts when their account is low on funds. The district uses a computerized meal credit system to account for student meals and a la carte sales. All students have personal accounts regardless of paying status (free/reduced/paid). When using the online payment system, parents/guardians can access student account balances at any time.

Although not required by law through the National School Lunch Act or the healthy Hunger Free Kids Act, limited meal charging will be allowed , as a courtesy to families, under the following conditions;

K-12 Grades

- Only reimbursable meals may be charged up to \$10.00. No a la carte purchases.
- Negative balance letters will be sent home on a weekly basis.
- Repayment is expected within three business days.
- If a student has accrued a negative \$10.00 balance and still lacks payment, the student will be offered an alternate meal; soy jammer, fruit/vegetable and milk.
- No charging is permitted two weeks prior to the end of the school year.
- All unpaid charges will be added to the list of any outstanding fees/fines at the end of the school year. Payment must be made in full to the Child Nutrition Department or school/other privileges may be withheld.