

**District:** Ocean Springs School District  
**Section:** E - Business Management  
**Policy Code:** EEAC - Student Charged Meals

FNS Instruction 796-2 (Rev. 3) lists bad debts as a non-allowable expenditure of Federal Funds. Therefore, losses or meals charged cannot be paid with Child Nutrition Funds.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Policy Memorandum SP-46-2016 requires all School Food Authorities (SFA) operating federal school meal programs to have a written meal charge policy by July 1, 2017.

In accordance with the recommendation on the charging of meals by the Mississippi Department of Education, the Ocean Springs School District shall comply with the regulation as follows:

- I. Adults are not allowed to charge meals or solicit food from students.
- II. High School students are not allowed to charge meals.
- III. K-8 Students can charge meals as follows:
  - A. Students who are full pay or reduced pay category may charge up to but not more than 5 days.
  - B. After the fifth day of charges parents/guardians must pay the charges or send a meal from home.
  - C. Further measures may be taken to collect student account balances including but not limited to:
    1. Set up payments with the parents/guardians to pay student account balances.
    2. Forward student account balances to a collection agency.
    3. Report the parents/guardians to the Department of Human Services in the event of suspected neglect as mandated by law MS Code Sections 93-21-3 and 97-5-23.
    4. Parents/guardians that have students with charges will be unable to pre-register for the next school year until all charges are paid in full.
  - D. During the month of May all charging will be discontinued and parent/guardian will be responsible for maintaining a positive meal account balance.
  - E. The Child Nutrition Department will develop procedures to implement the Student Charged Meal Policy.