

CHIPPEWA LOCAL SCHOOLS FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT MEAL CHARGE POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to address the need for School Food Service Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) to institute and clearly communicate a meal charge policy, which includes, the availability of an alternate meal. Such a policy ensures that the school food services department, school administrators, parents and students have a shared understanding of expectations in these situations.

The goal of the Chippewa Local Schools is to provide students with healthy meals each day. However, unpaid meal charges place a financial strain on the food services department and the district. While the USDA Child Nutrition Program does not require that a student who pays for regular priced meals be served a meal without payment (charged meal), the Chippewa Local Schools provides this policy as a courtesy to those students who forget or lose their lunch money or have parents/guardians with a temporary financial issue.

Meal Charge Policy Goals:

- * To establish a consistent district policy regarding meal charges and collection of charges
- * To treat all students with dignity and respect in the serving line regarding meal accounts
- * To establish policies that are age appropriate
- * To encourage parent/guardian to assume the responsibility of meal payments and to promote self-responsibility of the students with regards to their lunch accounts

Meal Charge Limits:

- * When a student has reached the charge limit they will be given an alternative lunch until the negative balance is paid in full. They will not be served a breakfast.
- * An alternative lunch will consist of a sandwich, vegetable or fruit, and milk.
- * Students with a negative lunch account balance will not be permitted to purchase ala carte items.
- * Parents/guardians will be notified of negative balances by a phone call and/or a letter sent by mail.
- * End of the year unpaid meal charges for underclassmen will be added to the next school year's fees. Unpaid meal charges for seniors will be added to any unpaid fees that they may have and will need to be paid prior to graduation.

Elementary School Meal Charge Limits:

- * Students with paid lunch status may charge up to \$25.00 (equivalent of 6 lunches and 6 breakfasts)
- * Students with reduced lunch status may charge up to \$5.00 (equivalent of 7 lunches and 7 breakfasts)

Intermediate School and Jr/Sr High School Meal Charge Limits:

- * Students with paid lunch status may charge up to \$25.00 (equivalent of 6 lunches and 6 breakfasts)
- * Students with reduced lunch status may charge up to \$5.00 (equivalent of 7 lunches and 7 breakfasts)
- * During the last three weeks of school, seniors will not be permitted to charge to a negative balance.

Payment Options:

* Parents/Guardians may pay in advance by sending in a check or money to be put on their child's lunch account.

*Parents/Guardians may also use an on-line payment service made available called "PaySchools." This user friendly system offers various options for parents/guardians to make on-line payments for lunch and breakfast purchases. There a link on Chippewa Local Schools website, www.chippewa.k12.oh.us

Free/Reduced School Meal Application:

* If your family has a financial hardship or change of income, your child/children may qualify for free or reduced lunch status.

* Applications are available on-line or in the main office of your child's school. Applications can be turned in any time after August 1st prior to the new school year or during the course of the school year.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.