

SCHOOL MEAL CHARGING AND PAYMENT

The Lincoln-Woodstock School District believes that no child can learn while hungry. Therefore in order to support the success of our schools, any student that is hungry and wants to eat, either breakfast or lunch, will be fed a complete, reimbursable meal, regardless of the balance of their student account. No student will be turned away, no meals will be taken away at the point of service and no student will be given an alternative meal as a result of no funds to purchase a meal.

All complete, reimbursable meals will be charged to the student account at the appropriate meal costs (Reduced Price or Paid). As an Offer versus Serve (OVS) School, our definition of a complete, reimbursable meal includes the following food components: Meat/Meat Alternate, Grain, Fruit, Vegetable, Milk. The student must take at least 3 food components, with one of the selections being either a Fruit or a Vegetable.

A la carte food items or incomplete, non-reimbursable meals will not be allowed to be purchased if a student has a negative account balance.

Schools may not do the following (reference United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition, Instruction 765-7, Revision 2):

- Deny meals to free students regardless of any other charges at the school;
- Deny meals to any student for disciplinary reasons;

Payment to the students' food service accounts may be made by cash or check to the Food Service Director or at the Point of Service (register). Payment may also be made using the School District's current online school payment system.

It is the responsibility of each household to maintain a positive balance in their student's food service account. When the student account balance goes below \$0.00, the Building Administrator or designee will contact the household by email or letter. The Food Services Director shall also attempt to contact the household by telephone to establish a payment arrangement prior to small claims. The District's Free and Reduced Determining Official shall reach out to families and provide paperwork and resources as needed. All attempts to collect outstanding funds will be documented and collected through small claims court at the expense of the child's parents/legal guardians.

Any processing fees incurred for returned checks will be charged to the student's food service account for payment by the household.

If a student leaves the district, for any reason, their food service account will be reimbursed to the household in full.

At the end of the school year, any account that is still delinquent will be written off as bad debt and will be made whole by the school district.

Legal References:

A Provision of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, USDA

Legal References Disclaimer: *These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

First Reading: June 28, 2017

Second Reading: January 13, 2021

Second Reading: July 19, 2017

Revised: January 13, 2021

Adopted: July 19, 2017
First Reading: December 9, 2020

First Reading: June 23, 2021
Second Reading: July 21, 2021
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