

Covington County Schools Meal Charge Policy

It is the policy of Covington County Schools to comply with all federal program regulations pertaining to the National School Breakfast and National School Lunch programs. Per the federally governed Child Nutrition Program regulations, uncollected meal charges constitute a bad debt and are unallowable. Covington County Schools' Meal Charge Policy will be in effect for the school year which begins in August and ends in May. Each school may choose to 'No Charge' or 'Charge' daily school meals for students. If the school chooses to allow students to 'Charge' meals, that school must have all charges cleared to a zero balance by the last day of each calendar month during the school year. The limit for 'Charge' meals should not exceed \$5.00 before payment is made. Principals will be held responsible for the payment of unpaid meal charges on the last operating day of each month. Cafeteria managers will send letters home weekly to parents and guardians of students with school meal charges exceeding \$0.10 starting one operating day after the charges are incurred. Parents and guardians will also receive notification from cafeteria staff within 5 school days when their student has an account balance that would not cover the cost of breakfast and lunch for one day, which would be \$3.75. No employee of the Covington County Board of Education will be allowed to charge for meals or a la carte items, and students will not be allowed to charge for extra meals or a la carte items.

No child in any grade will be denied a school meal, therefore, an alternate meal may be offered to students with unpaid meal charges. Alternate meals served will accommodate students with food allergies and meet the USDA guidelines.

The Child Nutrition Program has established an online payment program that enables parents and guardians to track meals and charges, view balances, set up account alerts and notifications on specific activities and balances, and make payments to accounts. The website for this program is www.myschoolbucks.com.