

## **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. Any school that has any outstanding balances 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. 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.

Reimbursable meals at breakfast and lunch are free to all students in Covington County Schools, therefore no child in any grade will be denied a school meal. Students are not allowed to charge a la carte items or extra meals or meal components. There should not be any instances where any student carries an outstanding balance.

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](http://www.myschoolbucks.com).