

## CHILD NUTRITION

Union County Schools participate in the National School Lunch Program and are “Offer Versus Serve” cafeterias. We strive to provide good, healthy choices to our students. We have trained and experienced staff to prepare meals that taste good, and meet USDA guidelines. Our breakfast and lunch program is supported by payment, donated food from the USDA, and government financial assistance according to participation. The health of each student is very important to our school district.

<u>Meal Pricing:</u>	Breakfast:	\$1.75 Paid	Free & Reduced eat at no cost
	Lunch:	\$2.50 Paid	Free & Reduced eat at no cost
	Adults:	\$2.50 Breakfast	\$3.50 Lunch

Extra food may be purchased after receiving a full meal.

1. UCSD operates under “Offer vs Serve” for grade PreK-12 this allows students to choose what they want to eat. At lunch, the must take 3 of the 5 components offered, this must include a fruit or vegetable. They may choose all 5 if they want. At breakfast, 3 of the 4 components offered must be chosen to complete a reimbursable meal. This also includes a serving of fruit or vegetable.
2. Students who bring lunch from home can only purchase milk, milk products and bottled water.
3. No food or drinks are to be sold on the school campus one hour prior to and during breakfast and lunch schedules at the school.
4. No food from outside vendors may be brought into the cafeteria for students. No outside logos or branding will be allowed.
5. Student meal charges are discouraged. Students may only charge a reimbursable meal. Students will not be allowed to charge second meals or purchase extra sales until their account is in good standing. Adults are not allowed to charge.
6. Please consider prepaying meals. Cash or check are also accepted at the point of sale. Pre-payments may also be made by online using “My School Bucks.” Go to the district website [union.k12.ms.us](http://union.k12.ms.us), under the tab “Child Nutrition,” select “My School Bucks” to get connected with the online payment portal.
7. Any request for refunds shall be submitted in writing to the Child Nutrition Director. Money not utilized during the school year will be carried forward to the next school year.
8. If your student requires substitutions due to allergies, their doctor must fill out the school district medical form giving recommended substitutions. If it is a milk allergy, they may be offered have fruit juice or water. If you have questions or concerns about food allergies, please call your school nurse, or the Child Nutrition Department at 662-534-1958.
9. If you believe you may qualify for Free or Reduced benefits, please submit a Free and Reduce Price School Meals application for your household, and turn the form in as quickly as possible. These can be completed online or on paper. Not only could your child eat free of charge, it can also assist the school district with additional funding for educational materials for our students.
  - a. A new form has to be completed each school year, starting in July.

- b. Students entering Union County School District from another district will be considered “paid” until a Free/Reduced Lunch Application is submitted and approved in the Union County School District.

### **Child Nutrition Charge Policy**

In accordance with the recommendation of the charging of meals by the Mississippi State Department of Education, the Union County School District shall comply as follows:

1. Adults are not allowed to charge meals.
2. Students may only charge meals as follows:
  - a. Charging a reimbursable meal will result in a negative balance on the students account until funds have been added to the account.
  - b. Students with a zero or negative balance will not be allowed to purchase a second meal or al a carte items until the account is in good standing.
  - c. When a student brings money, that will be applied to the purchase of the reimbursable meal; any remainder money will then be applied to negative balances on the student’s account.
  - d. No student will be denied a meal by the cafeteria. If a parent/guardian does not wish to allow their student to charge a reimbursable meal to their account, they must submit a written request to the Child Nutrition Department denying the right to charge.
3. Negative account balances will be carried out as follows:
  - a. Weekly charge noted will be sent home with students who have a negative account balance greater that -\$15.00.
  - b. Calls, letters or emails will be sent to the parent(s)/guardian(s) at least monthly whose child has a negative account balance from the Child Nutrition Department.
4. Failure to bring the account into good standing within thirty (30) days will result in:
  - a. Further investigation by the school counselors and/or principals
  - b. Notification to the appropriate state agencies
  - c. At the end of the school year, negative balances will be added to individual student fees for payment.