



## **534 SCHOOL MEALS**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students receive healthy and nutritious meals through the school district's nutrition program and that school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. The policy of the school district is to provide meals to students in a respectful manner and to maintain the dignity of students by prohibiting lunch shaming or otherwise ostracizing the student. The policy seeks to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day and minimize identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for a la carte items or second meals as well as to maintain the financial integrity of the school nutrition program.

### **II. PAYMENT OF MEALS**

See policy on District Website under Food Service

### **III. LOW OR NEGATIVE ACCOUNT BALANCES – NOTIFICATION**

See policy on District Website under Food Service

### **IV. UNPAID MEAL CHARGES**

See policy on District Website under Food Service

### **V. COMMUNICATION OF POLICY**

- A. This policy and any pertinent supporting information shall be provided in writing via the District website and annual mailing to:
  1. all households at or before the start of each school year;
  2. students and families who transfer into the school district, at the time of enrollment; and
  3. all school district personnel who are responsible for enforcing this policy.
- B. The school district will post this policy on the school district's website, or the website of the organization where the meal is served, in addition to providing the required written notification described above.
- C. If the school district contracts with a third party for its meal services, it will provide the vendor with its school meals policy. The school district will ensure that any third-party provider with

whom the school district enters into either an original or modified contract after July 1, 2021, adheres to the school district's school meals policy.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 123B.37 (Prohibited Fees)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.111 (School Meals Policies; Lunch Aid; Food Service Accounting)  
42 U.S.C. § 1751 *et seq.* (Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act)  
7 C.F.R. § 210 *et seq.* (School Lunch Program Regulations)  
7 C.F.R. § 220.8 (School Breakfast Program Regulations)  
USDA Policy Memorandum SP 46-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies (2016)  
USDA Policy Memorandum SP 47-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments (2016)  
USDA Policy Memorandum SP 23-2017, Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance and Q&A

**Cross References:** None