



Sylvania Schools

POLICY: MEAL CHARGING and UNPAID MEAL CHARGES

School Year: 2024 - 2025

Overview: Students are only allowed to charge one (1) reimbursable full breakfast and one (1) full reimbursable lunch per day if they do not have money on their meal account. Charges/negative balances ('charge'- to be/go negative) must be paid. NO a la carte items/extras such as chips, soda, extra pizza, etc. can be charged.

Meal accounts: In an attempt to make certain no student goes without breakfast or lunch, the system allows students *to charge full meals and carry a balance. A la carte items cannot be charged.* We will **not** take food from a child in the lunch line. We feed students and settle financial matters with parents/guardians later. Monthly emails are sent to the email address provided to us for any lunch account balance that is in arrears (meaning negative accounts). Parents/guardians **must** keep an updated email address/ mailing address on file with the school district.

Meal account balances – COURTESY NOTIFICATIONS are sent out periodically if a student's lunch account balance has a negative balance of -\$5.00 or more in arrears (negative). If the account is not brought current, the **charges remain on the lunch account until paid** to the lunch account. Any food purchased is the financial responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Charging is for emergencies – The meal account charge system is required by the State of Ohio. It is intended to be used for the occasional time when a child does not have funds in their meal account or does not have money with them. This is NOT a revolving charge account, like a store credit card would be, and the meal account balance is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. The meal account **MUST** have money on the account or the student must have cash to purchase meals. We **cannot** turn a student away without food, therefore, the student will be fed if they have no funds/cash or food with them and we will be forced to charge the account. The **student must have enough funds to pay for their food** as we are obligated to feed students.