



Nyack School District Policy 8505: CHARGING SCHOOL MEALS

The Board of Education recognizes that on occasion, students may forget to bring meal money to school. To ensure that students do not go hungry, but also to promote responsible student behavior and minimize the fiscal burden to the district, the Board will allow students who may forget meal money to “charge” the cost of meals to be paid back at a later date subject to the terms in this policy.

To comply with State guidelines and maintain a system for accounting for charged meals, regarding both full and reduced-price meals, the district shall:

1. allow only regular meals to be charged, meaning what is on the menu, excluding extras and snacks (no charges of “a la carte” items);
2. limit the number of charges for regular meals to two breakfasts and two lunches per student;
3. on the elementary level, ensure that no student is denied a meal once the maximum limit is reached by permitting the student to charge an alternate breakfast consisting of toast with peanut butter or cheese (with fruit/juice or vegetable and a milk) or an alternate lunch consisting of a peanut butter and jelly or cheese sandwich (with fruit/juice or vegetable and a milk) at a cost equivalent to a regular meal until the account balance is paid in full;
4. in the Middle School Schools limit the number of charges for regular meals to two breakfasts and two lunches and three (3) alternate breakfasts and lunches (alternates described above) and require that students show picture identification to charge a meal;
5. in the High School, limit the number of charges for regular meals to one breakfast and one lunch only (no alternate meals). No further charges will be permitted at the High School until the charged meal balance is paid in full. Exceptions to this policy may be requested by the High School Principal for students in a hardship situation. High School students must show picture identification to charge a meal;
6. use a computer-generated point of sale system, which identifies and records the sale of all meals, as well as meals charged and subsequent payments.

Charged meals must be counted and claimed for reimbursement on the day that the student charged (received) the meal, not the day the charge is paid back. When charges are paid, these monies are not to be considered “a la carte” transactions, as a section on the daily cash report or deposit summary reads “charges paid.”



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The food service office will report all unpaid school lunch charges to the building principal on a weekly basis. The main office of each school will contact parents to help resolve the unpaid balances and to offer assistance through the appropriate resources (school counselors, social workers, family resource centers, etc.) to determine whether the family may be eligible for free and reduced lunches.

A student may be prohibited from charging meals if there is an abuse of the meal charge privilege. In this case, written notice will be provided to the parent that if he/she continues to abuse this policy, the privilege of charging meals will be refused.

The school district shall send a letter home to all parents on an annual basis prior to the opening day of school, outlining the requirements of this policy. The policy shall also be published in appropriate school and district publications.

Staff

Staff members are allowed to purchase food from the district's food services. Adult meal prices will be established in accordance with Child Nutrition Program regulations. All purchases must be on a cash basis. Staff members will not be allowed to charge meals to be repaid later.

Ref: 42 USC §1779 (Child Nutrition Act of 1966)
42 USC §§1758(f)(1); 1766(a) (National School Lunch Act)

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