



Meal Charge Policy

I. Purpose

The goal of the *DeKalb Academy of Technology and Environment Charter School* is to provide students with healthy meals each school day. However, unpaid charges place a large financial burden on our school. The purpose of this policy is to insure compliance with federal requirements for the USDA Child Nutrition Program, and to provide oversight and accountability for the collection of outstanding student meal balances. The intent of this policy is to establish procedures to address unpaid meal charges throughout D.A.T.E. The provisions of this policy pertain to school lunch meals only. D.A.T.E. provides this policy as a courtesy to those students in the event that they forget or lose their lunch money. Charging of items outside of the reimbursable meals is expressly prohibited.

II. Policy

- Free Meal Benefit - Free eligible students will be allowed to receive a free lunch each day.
- Reduced Meal Benefit - Reduced eligible students will be allowed to receive lunch for \$.40 each day. A student will be allowed to charge a maximum of 6 meals to their account after the balance reaches zero. The charge meals offered to students will be reimbursable meals that are available to all students.
- Paid Students - Students will pay \$3.50 each day. If a student is without money on a consistent basis, the administration will investigate the situation more closely and take further action as needed. If financial hardship exists, parents and families are encouraged to apply for free or reduced price lunches for their child if applicable. A student will be allowed to charge a maximum of 3 meals to their account after the balance reaches zero. The charge meals offered to students will be reimbursable meals that are available to all students.
- Parents/Guardians are responsible for meal payment to the food service program. Discreet notices of low or deficit balances will be sent to parents/guardians at regular intervals during the school year.
- Students/Parents/Guardians may pay for meals in advance via *payforit.net* or with cash payable to the front desk. Further details are available on the school website www.dekalbacademy.org. Funds should be maintained in accounts to minimize the possibility that a child may be without meal money on any given day. Any remaining funds for a particular student may/will be carried over to the next school year.
- Refunds for withdrawn, and graduating students; a written or e-mailed request for a refund of any money remaining in their account must be submitted. Students

- who are graduating at the end of the year will be given the option to transfer to a sibling's account with a written request.
- Unclaimed Funds must be requested within one school year. Unclaimed funds will then become the property of the *DeKalb Academy of Technology and Environment* Food Service Program.
 - Collection of unpaid balances cause for immediate action. The director will contact the parents via email and phone to request reimbursement. Funds can be submitted at the front desk or online at payforit.net.

With Gratitude,

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