

Findlay City Schools

POLICY: MEAL CHARGING and UNPAID MEAL CHARGES

School Year: 2022 – 2023

Overview: Students are only allowed to charge one (1) reimbursable breakfast and one (1) 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 or they will be migrated to their Progress Book account and will need to be paid prior to graduation. NO, a la carte items/extras such as chips, extra pizza, etc. can be charged. **Again, only one (1) reimbursable breakfast and one (1) reimbursable lunch per day when there is no money on the students account.**

Meal accounts: In an attempt to make certain no student goes without breakfast or lunch, our 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. Regular communications are sent to the parents/guardians for any lunch account balance that is in arrears (meaning negative accounts).

Meal account balances – Notification is sent out periodically if a student's lunch account balance has a negative balance or in arrears (negative). If the account is not brought current, the charges will then be applied to the student's Progress Book account and **must be paid to the Food Service Office**. If that should happen, notification is sent out.

Parents/guardians need to keep an updated email address/ mailing address on file with the school district. 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.

*Parent/guardian can submit a request in writing, via email, to twelty@findlaycityschools.org in the Student Nutrition department if you do not want your student to be able to charge meals, meaning to go negative on the lunch account. In that case, the meal account **MUST** have money on the account or the student must have cash to purchase meals. We do not turn a student away without food. The student must have enough funds to pay for their food as we are obligated by law to feed students.

There are a variety of ways to configure limitations on the student's account. We can set a total charge limit or even a per day a la carte limit. Parents/guardians can call the food service office at 419-420-7014 or 419-425-8208 to discuss the options available.