



calanes Union High School District

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Unpaid Meal Debt Policy

The National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs are integral in ensuring that students have access to nutritious meals to support their academic success. It is also imperative to protect the financial stability of school nutrition program. The intent of this policy is to establish a process and procedure when children eligible for reduced-price or full-price meal benefits have insufficient funds to pay for school meals, as well as for the collection of unpaid meal charges and delinquent account debt.

The Purpose of this policy is to

- permit the orderly establishment of consistent practices regarding charges and collection of charges
- provide adequate communication among staff, administrators, teachers and parent/guardian
- establish fair practices that can be used throughout the school district
- ensure that all students have a healthy meal and that no child goes hungry
- treat all students with dignity and confidentiality regarding meal accounts, and to
- encourage parent/guardian to assume the responsibility of meal payments.

Unpaid Meal Charge Policy:

Senate Bill 250 Pupil Meals: Child Hunger Prevention and Fair Treatment Act of 2017 (also known as the No Shaming Act) became law on January 1, 2018, and was superseded by Senate Bill 265, which became law effective October 12, 2019. The purpose of the law is to prevent the shaming of children who do not have sufficient funds to pay for a meal or whose family has unpaid meal debt. This law applies to schools, school districts, COEs, and charter schools participating in the federal NSLP and/or SBP

- Students will not be denied a reimbursable meal even if they have accrued a negative balance on their cafeteria account.
- Students who have money to pay for a meal, at the time of service will be provided a meal. If the student has a negative balance on their cafeteria account, the SFA/LEA will not use the money to repay unpaid meal charge debt.
- Students will be allowed to charge meals. In this case a student meal debt of \$25.00 is considered excessive debt.
- Purchasing/charging a la carte items is prohibited with a negative balance.

- The above policies will be enacted without students being shamed, treated differently, or served an alternative meal to overtly identify meal debt.
- No action will be directed to a student to collect unpaid meal debt. All efforts to collect debt will be directed to the parent/guardian of the student without the use of a debt collector.
- Meals will not be delayed or denied to students by any school personnel/volunteer based on any disciplinary action.

Notifying the Household of Negative Balance in Student Cafeteria Account

- The LEA/SFA will conduct direct certification matches prior to contacting parents of any negative balance.
- The student's household will be automatically notified of negative balances via e-mail by the SFA and/or notified via other methods by the LEA.
- Notifications to households will include the amount of unpaid meal charges, a link to online meal applications and where to go for questions or assistance.
- The consequences of non-payment will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.