

**DeSoto County School District
Child Nutrition Department
Student Charged Meals**

Student Charged Meals

FNS Instruction 796-2 (Rev. 3) lists bad debts as a non-allowable expenditure of Federal Funds. Therefore, losses or meals charged cannot be paid with Child Nutrition Funds.

In accordance with the recommendation on the charging of meals by the State Department of Education, The DeSoto County School District shall comply with the regulation as follows:

- A. Adults are not allowed to charge meals or solicit food from students.
- B. Students can charge meals as follows:
 - Students will be able to charge up to a maximum dollar equivalent of five (5) reimbursable lunch meals and five (5) reimbursable breakfast meals where available.
 - Charging a reimbursable meal will result in a negative balance on the student's account until funds are added to the student's account.
 - Students with a zero or negative account balance will not be allowed to purchase a second meal or a la carte items until the student's account is in good standing.
 - Once a student reaches the maximum five (5) day charge limit, meals can only be purchased with cash or pre-paid funds on account.
 - When a student brings money, that money will first be applied to the purchase of a reimbursable meal; any remainder money will then be applied to negative balances on the student's account.
- C. Charging will not be permitted after May 1st of the current school year to allow adequate time to collect student account balances.
- D. Negative account balances will be carried out as follows:
 - Daily calls and/or emails will be sent to parent(s)/guardian(s) Monday through Friday whose child has a negative account balance from the Child Nutrition department.
- E. Failure to bring account into good standing will result in:
 - a) Further investigation by school counselors and/or principals.
 - b) Notification to appropriate state agencies including the Department of Human Services.
- F. If a senior's account is not in good standing as of May 1st, the administration may choose to prohibit the senior from participating in senior activities and/or graduation exercises.