

# LBSD SCHOOL MEAL POLICY

SCHOOL YEAR 2017-2018

The School Nutrition Program is federally funded and governed by the policies and procedures of the USDA. It is operated under the guidelines and audited by the State Department of Mississippi.

As per the Federal and State Policy:

**NO benefit (free or reduced meals) can be extended to a student unless a current meal application has been received and processed in the district in which they are enrolled and attend.**

Students enrolled at the close of the 2016-2017 school year may choose to eat according to their meal status for the first 30 days only. However, a new application must be submitted by **September 18<sup>th</sup>**. Charges will accrue after that date and must be paid. All applications are submitted on-line at [lbsdbearcatcafe.com](http://lbsdbearcatcafe.com). Click on Meal Application. Benefits may be applied for at any time throughout the year if there is a change in your income or household number. If you need assistance, you may call the School Nutrition office at 228-864-1337.

School Nutrition maintains the [myschoolbucks.com](http://myschoolbucks.com) website that offers a safe and secure site for parents to pay for meals with debit or credit cards if they choose. **It is the responsibility of the parent to set up the account even if they wish to continue to pay for meals by check or cash directly to the Cafeteria. This is the only method to monitor and manage the child's meal account and get balances.** This website can be accessed at the site listed above also. The account follows the child each year. You may choose to be notified of low balances through this site.

**All cash payments must be placed in a sealed envelope with the amount inside and the name of the student printed on the outside.** We keep these envelopes on file for the entire year. You may call School Nutrition for any assistance at 228-864-1337.

- High School students are not allowed to charge school meals.
- K-8 students may charge meals as follows:
  - No more than 5 days of meal charges will be allowed as a courtesy to parents.
  - After the fifth day, parents must pay the charges and keep a positive balance in account.
  - If charges remain unpaid and no meal is sent with the child, the parent will be called.
- Delinquent accounts plus fees to collect may be forwarded to an agency for collection.

**We will not refuse to give a child a meal nor pull a tray from a child, even if the parent has made no provision for their child that day. However if a parent continues to ignore their responsibility, they will be called during the day to bring lunch or payment for meals. Parents who continually abuse the school meal policy will be contacted by the School Board of Long Beach prior to the notification of DHS as mandated by law MS Code sections 93-21-3, 97-5-23 and 97-5-39 (meal deprivation).**

