

DRAFT

Child Nutrition Service's Local Charge Policy:

USDA Requirement (April 4, 2017)

"No later than July 1, 2017, all school food authorities (SFAs) operating National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Program must have a written policy in place to address situations where children participating at the reduced price or paid rate do not have money to cover the cost of a meal at the time of the meal service."

California Law as of January 1, 2018:

SB 250, Hertzberg. Pupil meals: Child Hunger Prevention and Fair Treatment Act of 2017.

Existing law requires each school district or county superintendent of schools maintaining kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, to provide one nutritionally adequate free or reduced-price meal for each needy pupil during each schoolday, except as specified. Existing law authorizes a school district or county office of education to use funds made available through any applicable federal or state program or to use its own funds to provide the required meals.

This bill would enact the Child Hunger Prevention and Fair Treatment Act of 2017. The act would require certain local educational agencies, as defined, that provide school meals through the federal National School Lunch Program or the federal School Breakfast Program to ensure that a pupil whose parent or guardian has unpaid school meal fees is not shamed, treated differently, or served a meal that differs from what a pupil whose parent or guardian does not have unpaid school meal fees would receive under that local educational agency's policy. The act would prohibit school personnel and volunteers at a local educational agency that serves nutritionally adequate meals to pupils during the instructional day from allowing any disciplinary action that is taken against a pupil to result in the denial or delay of a nutritionally adequate meal to that pupil. The act would require a local educational agency to notify a parent or guardian of the negative balance of a pupil's school meal account no later than 10 days after the pupil's school meal account has reached a negative balance. The act would require a local educational agency, before sending this notification to the parent or guardian, to exhaust all options and methods to directly certify the pupil for free or reduced-price meals. The act would require a local educational agency to reimburse school meal fees paid by a pupil's parent or guardian when fees were paid or unpaid fees debt accrued when a pupil would have been determined to be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. To the extent that these provisions would place additional requirements on local educational agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Propose:

Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District believes all students who are hungry shouldn't go without a meal. The district is aware that from time to time a student may forget or lose their lunch money. The district also will be compliant with the "Child Hunger Prevention and Fair Treatment Act of 2017". For these reasons, the district allows the student to carry a negative account and thereafter notify the parents of the need to pay.

Procedure:

To assist families, YCJUSD does not charge the student for a reduced-price meal. To provide alternate means to pay for the student's paid meals, the district allows a variety of payment plans.

Payment / Pre-payment Options:

1. Cash / check payments:
 - a. Cash or check payments should be placed in an envelope with the following clearly marked:
 - i. Student name
 - ii. Student ID number
 - iii. Teacher name
 - iv. Amount enclosed
 - b. Payment envelopes are to be turned in directly to the Café lead during operating hours or sent in with the student to turn in during their lunch time.
 - c. Please make checks payable to: YCJUSD and write student's ID number in the memo section.
 - d. Child Nutrition Services does not charge a fee to pay using cash or check.
2. Third Party payment system, mySchoolBucks.com, for internet payments:
 - a. Families can go to: www.myschoolbucks.com to make pre-payments or pay outstanding balances to student meal accounts.
 - b. The site allows you to register each of your children and add money to each meal account.
 - c. Myschoolbucks.com will charge a \$1.35 per payment as a convenience fee added to each payment you make using this service.
3. Pre-Payment Incentive:
 - a. To encourage pre-payments, the district offers two free lunches when paying for 18 lunches at once (with a positive balance).

Managing Unpaid Meal Accounts:

1. If a student is unable to pay for their meal at the time of purchase, the student will be allowed to charge a meal to their account.
2. There is no limit to the number of meals a student can charge.
3. The Child Nutrition staff will not engage in conversation the need to bring money or that their account is negative. All financial communications will be directed to the parent/ guardian of the student.
4. Automatic calls, text messaging and emails from Child Nutrition Services will be made every Sunday and Wednesday to households of students with negative balances of \$ 3.00 or greater.
5. The emails provide information how to apply to the National School Lunch Program.
6. School site staff and Child Nutrition office staff will be encouraged to call households that have excesses payments due.
7. If a student is without meal money on a consistent basis, Child Nutrition Services will partner with school site staff to investigate the situation and take further action as needed. If financial hardship exists, the household will be encouraged to apply or reapply for free or reduced-price meals for their child.

A La Carte Sales:

Students who are carrying a negative balance will not be able to purchase an a la carte item.