

Meal Charge / Alternative Meal Procedure – When Students Cannot Pay for Meals

The goal of North Canton City Schools Food and Nutrition Department is first and foremost to provide healthy and nutritious meals to our students so they can better function and learn at school. As a self-sustaining enterprise fund, we must generate funds through student and adult meal sales, snack sales, and federal and state reimbursements in order to pay all operating expenses.

When lunch money is forgotten, we have established the following procedures to:

- Treat all students with dignity and respect;
- Encourage parents to assume the responsibility of meal payments and to promote self-responsibility of the students;
- Establish consistent department procedure regarding charges.

Meal Charge / Alternative Meal Procedure

1. When a student has a negative balance in his/her online account, we will automatically send an email/phone call reminder to the account's registered parent / guardian alerting them of this negative balance.
2. The Food and Nutrition Department will allow a Maximum of \$15.00 worth of negative meal charges for all students, so they can continue to receive the nourishment they need, unless a student's parent / guardian has specifically provided written permission to the school to withhold a meal.
3. If a student has reached the \$15.00 threshold of negative meal charges, and still does not have money on their account or cash in hand to purchase a meal, we will offer them an Alternative Meal at the Elementary Schools. This meal will be a Chef Salad Lunch or a Yogurt Lunch which we offer each day to all students with or without money, so as to avoid embarrassment for the student.
4. Parents will be notified via an email, phone call and/or letter home with the student that an Alternative Meal has been given, and that payment of all meal charges must be made. If after two Alternative Meals and attempts by the Food and Nutrition Department to reach parents are unsuccessful, then the school's counselors, principals or others will contact the parent / guardian to offer assistance with a meal application, determine if there are other issues within the household that have caused the child to have insufficient funds to purchase a school meal and offer any other assistance that is appropriate.

Meal Applications for Free or Reduced Meals are available on our website and paper copies can be requested at any time of the year simply by calling 330-497-5600. All information is kept confidential and at no time does the Food and Nutrition Department give out meal status information unless a parent requests that we do so, like to have school fees waived.