

# FAYETTEVILLE-PERRY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Alternative Meal Procedure for Students Who Cannot Pay for Meals

Fayetteville-Perry Local Schools Child Nutrition Department is self-supporting. It receives no money from the district's General Fund budget, tax levies or property taxes. Child Nutrition is funded only from federal reimbursements and student payments to cover all operating expenses and fees. By federal law, Child Nutrition revenues must meet or exceed expenditures. Therefore, unpaid charges and unlimited alternative meals would affect the ability for the Child Nutrition Department to support itself.

The Child Nutrition Department meal charge procedure goals:

- To treat all students with dignity in the serving line regarding meal accounts;
- To establish a consistent department procedure regarding meal charges and the collection of charges;
- To encourage parents to assume responsibility for meal payments and to promote student self-responsibility;
- To support positive situations with district staff, district business policies, students and parents to the maximum extent possible.

Fayetteville-Perry Local Schools Child Nutrition Department allows two (2) complete breakfast and lunch charges to all students. However, the charging of any and all ala carte items is prohibited.

For newly enrolled students, there is a five (5)-day grace period during which new students may receive lunch without payment. This allows for the processing of meal eligibility applications.

Each student may charge up to two (2) complete breakfasts and lunches (totaling...for ALL reduced students – \$1.40; for full-pay students – PreK-12<sup>th</sup> grade - \$11.00). Each student will receive up to two (2) alternative meals after the two (2) complete lunch charge limit has been met. After a student has received two (2) alternative meals and charges have not been paid and no money in hand, then the matter will be turned over to the building administration for further action on the matter.

### Alternative Meal Procedure

1. When a student makes their first complete breakfast and lunch charge to their account, parents/guardians will be notified via School Messenger that the meal account has a negative balance. Elementary students will receive an envelope reminder to take home. School Messenger notification calls will be made until the charges are paid in full.
2. After the second charge, the student will receive an alternate meal consisting of a cheese sandwich, a fruit or vegetable and milk to ensure that all students are receiving the USDA required three (3) components for a complete meal. Parents/Guardians will continue to receive School Messenger notification that the account has a negative balance.

*Trays are not taken from a student; we take great care in making certain that no student with a negative balance receives a meal that is not an alternative meal, however, we know that mistakes can happen. If a student with a negative balance receives a meal by mistake, the student will keep the meal and it will be added to the student's account, increasing the amount of charges owed on the account and a letter will be sent to the parent/guardian to notify them of the additional charge, as well as a notification from School Messenger.*