

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT No. 67****SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM MEALS AND CHARGES**

The R.S.U. No. 67 Board of Directors believes that the School Nutrition Program plays an important role in helping our learners succeed in school. Proper nutrition is essential for growing bodies and assists learners in reaching their full potential in academics. The district's intent is to ensure that the learning process is not impeded in any way for learners who are hungry because they have not had a proper breakfast or lunch.

The district shall take part in the National School Lunch Program and other food programs which may become available; to assure learners shall have the opportunity to receive proper nourishment. The federal assistance under this program allows the district to provide some meals free or at a reduced price, dependent upon family income. The regulations of the National School Lunch Program shall be used in administering participation in the program. Parents shall be advised that this program is available. Eligibility criteria shall be made public. Applications for Free and Reduced Lunch shall be sent home at the beginning of each school year and may be submitted to the school at any time during the school year.

All learners who do not qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch are expected to pay for school meals at the time of purchase. To ensure that learners do not go hungry, but also to promote responsible learner behavior and minimize the fiscal burden to the District's School Nutrition Program, the District shall enforce the following policies by grade level:

**A. Free and Reduced Lunch**

1. Free lunch status allows a child to receive one free breakfast and lunch every day. A la carte items are not part of the USDA program and are not allowed to be charged.
2. Reduced-price meal status students shall be allowed to have a negative account balance up to \$10.00. A la carte items are not part of the USDA program and are not allowed to be charged.

**B. All Others**

1. PreK – Grade 3 learners shall be served a regular meal regardless of a balance owed.
2. Grade 4 – Grade 8
  - i. Meal balances shall be checked weekly and overdue notices shall be sent to parents/guardians for balances over \$10.00.
  - ii. If the balance owed exceeds \$20.00, the learner will no longer be served breakfast or lunch if a notice has been sent home.
3. Grade 9 – Grade 12
  - i. Meal balances shall be checked weekly and overdue notices shall be sent to parents/guardians for balances over \$12.50.
  - ii. If the balance owed exceeds \$25.00, the learner shall no longer be served breakfast or lunch provided a notice has been sent home.
  - iii. No a la carte purchases may be charged if a learner has a negative balance.

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**C. Staff Meals**

1. Adults shall not be allowed to charge any meals or a la carte items causing their meal account to go into a deficit balance.

Parents/guardians may contact the school and request an extension on a balance owed. The food service director or designee shall make a decision on the request within 24 hours.

The district retains the right to pursue legal action to recover overdue meal balances. These actions could include contacting the small claims court to collect money owed or notifying the Department of Health and Human Services of child neglect.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 6601 et seq.

Adopted: August 19, 2015