

Meal Account Policy

Turpin Schools currently operates under the guidelines of the National School Lunch Program. All households will have the option to apply for free or reduced meal pricing.

Student meal accounts in good standing will be allowed to charge up to \$10.00. At this point, the school may deny further charges of meals to an account.

Students or households will receive reminders of low balances and notifications that funds are needed for meal accounts. Households will be reminded of the option to apply for free or reduced pricing. In order to avoid instances of students not receiving a meal, the school will generally allow some flexibility with the charge limit amount for accounts in good standing (accounts which have a history of prompt payment and do not have repeated situations of overdue balances).

The school may transfer funds between accounts within a shared household as needed in order to even the account balances and/or to prevent a household from the need to send additional funds for an account and/or to save a household from receiving a reminder call or written notification. If a student or household with multiple students has repeated issues of overdue payment and delinquency, the school may choose to apply one of the following guidelines to those accounts: 1) observe a strict adherence to the \$10.00 charge limit; or 2) apply a 'no charge allowed' rule to the account(s) in the case of excessive overdue/delinquent payments. These options would be available to be used at the discretion of the school in response to various circumstances in order to protect the school from the risk of the expense of potential unpaid accounts. The school does not currently apply the practice of alternate meals, although this option is available for possible limited use.

If a hardship is suspected and the household does not qualify for free or reduced pricing, the school may choose to assist the family by waiving the charge limit for a time period, trying to help locate local charitable funds or donations, or by absorbing the unpaid accounts as an expense to the general fund.

Any meal accounts with overdue balances are considered delinquent. Meal accounts need to be paid in full by the end of the school year; any accounts unpaid at that time will be considered delinquent. Delinquent accounts may be handled by a collection agency. Unpaid accounts deemed uncollectable are absorbed as an expense to the school's general fund or to local donated funds if available.

Negative balances remaining in an account upon the withdrawal of a student from the school will be typically be carried as an unpaid delinquent account until the end of the school year in case the student returns to the school system. These accounts may be handled by a collection agency. Any positive balances remaining in an account upon the withdrawal of a student are available for refund to the household or may be donated by the household. If no refund request or other instruction is received by the end of the school year, these funds will be treated as donated local funds.

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.