

Meal Charges

The Eau Claire Area School District has a pre-payment system for school meals; however, we recognize that, on occasion, students may forget to bring meal money to school. Unpaid charges are the responsibility of parents/guardians and place a financial strain on the Food and Nutrition Department. We understand that mistakes happen, but meal payments are important to our program. Our goals regarding student meal charges are to:

- Be consistent regarding charges and collection of charges.
- Treat all students with dignity in the serving line regarding meal accounts.
- Support positive interactions and outcomes with district staff, district business policies, students and parent/guardian to the maximum extent possible.
- Establish processes that are age appropriate.
- Encourage parent/guardian to assume the responsibility of meal payments.
- Promote self-responsibility of the student.

The Food and Nutrition Department will notify parents/guardians regarding low or outstanding balances.

1. Non-students and adults who are permitted to purchase meals or other items through the food service program are not permitted to charge items that would result in a negative balance.
2. If a student has no money in their account, no a la carte items will be sold to the student using their prepaid meal account, and all transactions will become a cash transaction.
3. Payment reminders will be given to students. Reminders to parents may be received via phone call, email, or letters sent home.
4. Families are responsible for any incurred meal charges and will continue to receive payment reminders.
5. Student accounts that incur a significant negative balance will be notified and a guardian must contact the Food and Nutrition office at 715-852-3061 to establish a payment plan.
6. If a negative balance accrues and a payment plan is not established, a Free and Reduced meal application will need to be completed in order for meal service to continue.

Free Meal eligibility status allows a student to receive one free breakfast and one free lunch every day, however, balances incurred prior to application approval remain the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Families may apply for free or reduced price meals anytime during the school year.

Milk is only included as a component of a complete USDA meal, which consists of an entrée, fruit, vegetable, and milk. A la carte items, which include milk purchased to drink with a meal brought from home, are not part of the USDA program and will be charged to the account.