

Food Service Program**Meal Charges****Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to maintain consistent meal account procedures throughout the District. Unpaid charges place a financial strain on District finances. The Food Service Department is responsible for maintaining food charge records and for notifying the District's accounting department of outstanding balances.

Delinquent Debt

Unpaid meal charges are considered "delinquent debt" when payment is overdue. The debt is classified as delinquent as long as it is considered collectable and efforts are being made to collect it.

1. Students will be allowed to charge a maximum of ten (\$10.00) dollars.
 - a. These meals will include only the menu items of the reimbursable meal.
 - b. After the balance exceeds ten (\$10.00) dollars, the student may be given a designated menu alternate.
2. No charges will be allowed for ala carte foods and beverages.
3. Parents/guardians of students with delinquent debt will be contacted electronically, by correspondence, by phone call by the District Accounting Office, or by the Food Service Department.
4. On May 15 annually all charging will be cut off.
 - Parents/guardians will be sent a written request for "payment in full."
 - All charges not paid before the end of the school year will be carried forward into the next school year.
 - Graduating seniors must pay all charges in full. Failure to do so may result in the delinquent student being denied participation in graduation ceremonies.
5. If a financial hardship is suspected, families will be encouraged to apply for free/reduced meals at any time during the school year.

6. Each building principal will send a letter to all parents on or before the first day of school notifying them of the requirements of this policy. This policy will also be published on the District's website.

Bad Debt

When local officials determine that further collection efforts for delinquent debt are useless or too costly, the debt must be reclassified as "bad debt". Debts are considered assets because they represent money due to the school district. However, once a delinquent debt is reclassified as a bad debt it is no longer considered an asset. Therefore, bad debts must be written off as operating losses. This loss must be restored using non-Federal sources from the school district's general fund.