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## UNPAID MEAL CHARGE AND ALTERNATE MEAL POLICY

Unpaid student meal debt can present challenges to many school districts. Addressing this issue starts by acknowledging the importance of school meal programs and by recognizing that everyone involved in the discussion has the best interest of students in mind.

The Chawanakee Unified School District provides students with access to a variety of affordable and appealing foods that meet State and Federal requirements. Families are encouraged to apply for free and reduced-priced meals. Applications are accepted year around. Students approved for free or reduced-priced meal benefits are never denied a reimburseable meal, their names are never posted, they are never given tickets, they are never made to sit in designated areas, and they are served the same food choices as students who pay full price.

We encourage parents of students who do not qualify for meal benefits to prepay weekly or monthly at the school office, school cafeteria or online at [www.MySchoolBucks.com](http://www.MySchoolBucks.com). Prepayment insures that children receive nutritionally balanced school meals every school day.

Any student with a negative balance on their meal account is not allowed to charge an ala carte item. When a student begins to accrue a negative balance for charged meals parents will receive a phone and/or email reminder every Tuesday and Thursday. Bills are sent by mail the first of every month. Students are never overtly identified when they have insufficient funds to pay for school meals.

When meal charges exceed a negative -\$20.00 balance, the student's meal account is closed and they are offered an alternate meal. This meal is not a reimburseable meal. They may bring cash to pay for the day's advertised meal until charges are paid and their account is reopened. Students must not charge meals the last two weeks of school.

Students are never denied a reimburseable or alternate meal because of disciplinary action that may have occurred. Students will not be unreasonably reminded of owed meals. If it seems the family may be in need of meal benefits, an application for free or reduced-priced meals may be sent home with the student or mailed to the parents.

All outstanding balance amounts or credits are rolled over at year end to start the new school year. If the student owes a balance from elementary school, this balance will follow him/her through middle and high school. The charges may also affect the student's ability to participate in various school activities. Parents will be required to clear all students' accounts to participate in High School Graduation.

3/20/2018

