

UNPAID MEAL CHARGE POLICY:

Being that Okeechobee County School Board (OCSB) is intimately concerned that all students receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day and

Being that OCSB does not wish that any child be singled out for the inability to pay for meals and

Being that the OCSB Child Nutrition Program must maintain the financial integrity of the nonprofit school food service account,

The Board puts the following Unpaid Meal Charge Policy into effect on this day, July 1, 2017.

1. When a student does not have the funds to cover a reimbursable meal, the student's account will be debited the cost of the meal. In order to save the child from public embarrassment, he/she will not be informed of the incurred debt while in the lunch line. At a debt level of 10.00, a low balance notification will be sent home to the parents via the student, placed in a blank white envelope to avoid overt identification and delivered to the student via the school administrative office. A phone call will also be made to the parent/guardian when the child reaches a debt level of 10.00.
2. When a student is found to be without funds to cover his/her meal, the meal chosen by the student will be served to the student and the account debited. No alternate meal will be served.
3. Every effort will be made to inform the parent/guardian of the need to replace unpaid meal charges by the Cafeteria, the Child Nutrition Program and the School Administration.
4. Students who have debt will not be allowed to purchase a la carte foods.
5. There will be no ceiling debt level before which a child is declined a meal. However, an alternate meal not of the student's choice, will be served after debt has exceeded \$58.50 for K-5th grade and \$66.00 for 6th -12th grade.
6. Student debt will "follow" the student from school-to-school and year-to-year until paid. Students will be required to have any debt \$20.00 or more paid in full before participating in special school activities and programs such as field trips and field day, etc. and before participating in graduation. The Child Nutrition Program will be responsible for sending letters on District letterhead in the month of January and again in April to the parents of all seniors whose lunch accounts are negative. The parent/guardian of all students whose accounts are not paid by May 1st will be notified by the High School administrative office that their child will not be able to "walk" at graduation without full payment of all school debt. A payment plan can be arranged.