

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. Elementary students will be allowed to charge meals if monies are available. Breakfast meals may not be charged after the maximum dollar equivalent of five (5) lunch meals has been reached.
2. Middle and High School Students will be allowed to borrow meal tickets from the school office up to the maximum dollar equivalent of three (3) school meals. After the fourth meal charge, students may call home to leave a message with their parent/guardian.

If a student owes money for meal tickets, no a la carte items will be sold to the student and all transactions may become a cash basis transaction.

3. Non-student 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.

Families are responsible for any incurred meal charges and will continue to receive payment reminders.

Free Meal eligibility status allows a student to receive a free meal 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. A la carte items, which include milk purchased to drink with a meal brought from home, are not part of the USDA program, so must be purchased separately.