

MEAL CHARGE POLICY

Although not required by law, the Board of Education recognizes that, on occasion, students may forget to bring meal money to school, and will allow limited charging of school meals. To ensure that students do not go hungry, but also to promote responsible student behavior and minimize fiscal burden to the District, the Board will allow students who may forget meal money to “charge” the cost of meals as follows:

Only regular school lunches may be charged (this applies to all paying students whether they are paying full-price or reduced-prices) as follows:

Grades K-5

Will be allowed to charge 3 lunches. After 3 charges, students will be served alternate meals (i.e. peanut butter and jelly sandwich, cheese sandwich, or equivalent) until their account is properly funded.

Middle School (6-8)

Will be allowed to charge 3 lunches; after 3 charges, no meals will be provided until their account is properly funded.

High School (9-12)

Not allowed to charge school meals.

Students regardless of grade level will not be allowed to charge breakfast or “ala carte” items.

A computer generated point of sale (POS) system will be used for identifying and recording all charged meals, as well as for collecting repayment.

The method for collecting outstanding lunch charges from students is as follows:

- When a student account reaches the equivalent of 3 meals, a computer generated POS system will be used to generate a negative balance letter on a monthly basis. This letter will be sent to the home of the student.
- In the event that a student’s negative balance continues to increase, the District reserves the right to utilize the services of collection agencies or small claims courts.

The District will send a letter home or make the information available on the Bethlehem Central School District Website to all parents on an annual basis, prior to the opening day of school, notifying them of the requirement of this policy.

Adoption Date: July 1, 2009