

## **Business/Non-Instructional Operations**

### **Food Service**

#### **Charging Policy**

The goal of the food service program is to provide students with nutritious foods that will enhance learning. The school nutrition program is an essential part of the education system and by providing good-tasting, nutritious meals in pleasant surroundings; we are helping to teach students the value of good nutrition.

The Board of Education (Board) has an agreement with the Connecticut State Department of Education to participate in one or more school Child Nutrition Programs and accepts full responsibility for adhering to the federal and state guidelines and regulations pertaining to these school Child Nutrition Programs. The Board also accepts full responsibility for providing free, reduced price and meals to elementary and secondary students enrolled in the District's schools. Meals are planned to meet the specified nutrient standards outlined by the United States Department of Agriculture for children based on their age or grade group.

Although not required by law, because of the District's participation in the Child Nutrition Programs, the Board approves the establishment of a system to allow a student to charge a meal.

The Board realizes that funds from the non-profit school food service account, according to federal regulations, cannot be used to cover the cost of charged meals that have not been paid.

Moreover, federal funds are intended to subsidize the meals of children and may not be used to subsidize meals for adults (teachers, staff and visitors). Adults are not allowed to charge meals and shall pay for such meals at the time of service or through pre-paid accounts.

Charging is not encouraged by the District but on those occasions that a student does not have money, they will be offered an alternate meal. Examples of alternate meals include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a cheese sandwich and milk

The cost of providing this alternate meal cannot be incurred by the school food service account and the charge for this alternate meal will be the same as the cost of the advertised reimbursable meal. Parents are responsible for providing meals or meal money for their student(s). Borrowing or charging is for one meal and only in an emergency. Repayment is expected without delay. Outstanding balances may prohibit a student from participating in school activities. Snack and a-la-carte purchases are cash only.

## **Business/Non-Instructional Operations**

### **Food Service**

#### **Charging Policy** (continued)

Parents are responsible for providing meals or meal money for their student(s). Borrowing or charging is for one meal only in an emergency. Repayment is expected without delay. Snack and a-la-carte purchases are cash only.

This policy shall be included in student/parent handbooks, placed on the District's website, on the website of each school, and published at the beginning of each school year at the time information is distributed regarding free and reduced price meals.

(cf. 3542 – Food Service)

(cf. 3542.31 – Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program)

Legal Reference:        Connecticut General Statutes  
                                 10-215 Lunches, breakfasts and other feeding programs for public school children and employees.  
                                 10-215a Nonpublic school and nonprofit agency participation in feeding programs.  
                                 10-215b Duties of State Board of Education re feeding programs.  
                                 State Board of Education Regulations  
                                 Operational Memorandum #19-10, State of Connecticut, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education  
                                 “Unallowable Charges to No-profit School Food Service Accounts and the Serving of Meals to No-paying Full and Reduced Price Students”  
                                 National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program; Competitive Foods. (7 CFR Parts 210 and 220, Federal Register, Vol 45 No. 20, Tuesday, January 29, 1980, pp 6758-6772

Policy adopted:        October 19, 2015

THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Thomaston, Connecticut