

STUDENTS

Meal Charge Policy

The provisions of this policy pertain to regular priced school breakfast, lunch and snack (if applicable) meals only.

Charging of items outside of the reimbursable meals (a la carte items, adult meals, etc.) is expressly prohibited.

Free Meal Benefit – Free eligible students will be allowed to receive a free breakfast and lunch each day. A la carte purchases must be paid/prepaid.

Reduced Meal Benefit – Reduced eligible students will be allowed to receive a breakfast for 25¢ and lunch for 25¢ each day. A student will be allowed to charge a maximum of five meals to their account after the balance reaches zero. The charge meals offered to students will be reimbursable meals that are available to all students.

Full Pay Students – Students will pay for meals at the school's published paid meal rate each day. If a student is without meal money on a consistent basis, the administration will investigate the situation more closely and take further action as needed. If financial hardship exists, parents and families are encouraged to apply for free or reduced price lunches for the child, if applicable.

Student Charging – A student will be allowed to charge a maximum of five meals to their account after the balance reaches zero. The charge meals offered to students will be reimbursable meals that are available to all students.

Adult Charging – There will be no adult charging (employees, volunteers, or visitors) of school meals.

Parents/Guardians – Are responsible for meal payment to the food service program. Discreet notices of low or deficit balances will be sent to parents/guardians at regular intervals during the school year. Parents will be given notice of the negative balance on their student's accounts with negative balance notices. They will also be advised that an alternative meal will be provided for their student and they will be charged for those meals.

Student/Parents/Guardians – May pay for meals in advance via cash or with a check payable to Stamford Central School. Further information is available on our webpage at <http://www.stamfordcs.org/foodservice.aspx>. Funds should be maintained in accounts to minimize the possibility that a child may be without meal money on any given day. Any remaining funds for a particular student will be carried over to the next school year.

Alternate Meals – After the charge limit is reached a student will be provided alternate meals. The alternate meal for lunch will be a cheese or peanut butter and jelly sandwich, fruit choice, vegetable choice, and a carton of whole milk. For breakfast a regular meal will be provided.

Surplus Balances – Surplus balances will be rolled over for the student's benefit for the following school year.

Refunds – For withdrawn and graduating students; the district shall notify the family, in writing, of any balance remaining. A written or e-mailed request for a refund of any money remaining in their account must be submitted by the family. Full-pay students who are graduating at the end of the year will be given the option to transfer to a sibling's account with a written request. Reduced eligible students will have surplus money refunded.

Balances Owed – Collection of owed balances will follow the policies and procedures set by the school.

If a student is without meal money on a consistent basis, the administration will investigate the situation more closely and take further action as needed. If financial hardship exists, parents and families are encouraged to apply for free or reduced price lunches for their child if applicable.

Annual Notification – The school district will provide notice to all parents on an annual basis prior to the opening day of school, outlining the requirements of this policy. This policy shall also be published in an appropriate school-based publication. The Superintendent and his/her staff will develop rules and regulations concerning meal charges.