

Recognizing the correlation of nutrition to learning, the Lamar County School Board directs the system to offer breakfast and lunch to each student during the school year under the guidance as listed below:

- The System will operate the Federal Breakfast and Lunch Programs following USDA regulations in all schools to ensure that the free or reduced priced meals will be made available to those students qualifying for the benefit.
- Cafeteria employees will be supervised at each school by the principal. School cafeteria operations are to be performed under the direction of School Nutrition Services.
- School Nutrition Services operate in a fiscally sound manner through the use of a recognized labor standard formula and food cost benchmarks for each school cafeteria.
- The sale of foods of minimal nutritional value as defined by federal regulation will be prohibited to students in elementary schools from the beginning of the school day through the end of the last meal period. No school shall sell foods of minimum nutritional value or foods in direct competition with the school cafeteria in or about the school dining area during meal periods. Proceeds from competitive foods sold outside meal periods shall benefit the school or student organizations approved by the school.

MEAL CHARGE

The following Meal Charge Policy is to be strictly enforced in every school. Faculty, staff and student may deposit money into their meal accounts at any time of the month, whereby a draft of the account may be made on a daily basis as the meal is purchased.

The Lamar County Food Service program is a self-supporting program therefore; meals are to be paid for when purchased. Meals may be paid for on a daily basis. In the event a student account has a -0 - balance or the student does not have money, the following procedures will be followed. These procedures are designed to ensure that no student will be denied a meal, while providing time for the parent to replenish the student's account.

1. As with other outstanding bills, student report cards may be held until this balance due is paid.
2. Procedures for collection of charges:
 - a. The cashier will send home a charge letter to the parent through the student stating his/her balance owed. The cashier will keep a duplicate and log it on the Parent Notification Log.
 - b. The manager or cashier will call the home to inform the parent/guardian of the outstanding balance and offering a free and reduced priced meal application if one is not on file.
 - c. The final attempt will be made by the director or designee by a phone call to the home or by sending a letter/email to the head of household if unable to reach by phone
 - d. A referral may then be made to the school social worker to follow-up with the referred families to determine if there are any situations or needs with which the school system can be of assistance.
3. Students at the Middle and High schools will be sent to the principal when they reach the \$15.00 charge limit.
 - a. The principal will make the decision to approve one extra charge.
 - b. An alternative meal of the following will be served at cost to the student until the charges are collected:
 - i. Cheese sandwich or tuna sandwich and a juice
 - ii. Students determined to be Free or Reduced will not be given an alternative meal.
4. Principals will receive a roster of charges at the end of each week to assist with collection(s).
5. If charges are not collected by the end of the school year, the principals will receive an invoice from the School Nutrition Program for the charges.
6. At any time during the school year, if a family's income decreases or family size changes, an application for receipt of Free or Reduced Priced meals may be submitted and eligibility determined. A new Free or Reduced Priced Meal Application for the family must be submitted each school year.

All insufficient checks not collected by ChecXchange or MySchoolBucks will be adjusted back into a student's account as a charge balance.

Meal Charge Policy for Middle Schools

1. Students are allowed to charge up to \$15.00. Then they must get permission from the principal to charge one more meal before being given an alternative meal.
2. No a la carte items may be charged.
3. A written reminder will be given to the student to take home to inform parents about the charge.
4. The manager will call the parent/guardian after two (2) charges to inform them about the negative balance.
5. If the charge amount is not paid in full, students will be offered an alternate meal consisting of a sandwich and milk for lunch or toast and juice for breakfast.
6. Students are not allowed to charge the last two weeks of school.

Meal Charge Policy for High Schools

1. Students are allowed to charge two (2) meals. Then they must get permission from the principal to charge one more meal before being given an alternative meal.
2. No a la carte items may be charged.
3. If the charge amount is not paid in full, students will be offered an alternate meal consisting of a sandwich and juice for lunch or toast and juice for breakfast.
4. Students are not allowed to charge the last two weeks of school.