

LOCAL MEAL CHARGE POLICY

PURPOSE

The goal of the Bagdad Unified School District is to provide students with healthy meals each day. However, unpaid charges place a large financial burden on our Food Services Department. The purpose of this policy is to insure compliance with federal reporting requirements and to provide oversight and accountability for the collection of outstanding student meal balances.

The intent of this policy is to establish uniform meal account procedures throughout the Bagdad School District. The provisions of this policy pertain to regular priced school breakfast and lunch meals only. While the USDA Child Nutrition Program does not require that a student who pays for regular priced meals be served a meal without payment, the Bagdad Schools provides this policy as a courtesy to those students in the event that they forget or lose their lunch money.

POLICY

Full Pay Students

Elementary and Middle School Students will pay for meals at the district's published standard rate each day. A student will be allowed to charge a maximum of three (3) meals to their account after the balance reaches zero. Once a student has charged those three meals, he/she will be offered a designated menu alternate. Sample: PB & Jelly, veggie, fruit, and milk. This alternate meal will be charged to student's account at the standard rate. Once account reaches \$25.00 student will **NOT** be provided with a meal.

High School Students- High School students must prepay, pay cash or check, at the register for all meals and a la carte purchases. When a student's account balance reaches zero, no a la carte items will be sold to the student. A student will be allowed to charge a maximum of three (3) meals after balance reaches zero. Once a student has charged those three meals, he/she will only be offered a designated menu alternate. This menu alternate will be charged to the student's meal account at the standard rate. Once account reaches \$25.00 student will **NOT** be provided with a meal.

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

Reduced Meal Benefit—Reduced status students will be allowed to receive a breakfast for \$.30 and lunch for \$.40 each day. A student will be allowed to charge a maximum of six (6) meals to their account after the balance reaches zero. Once a student has charged those three meals, he/she will not be allowed to charge a la carte items, however he/she will be offered a designated menu alternate. Sample: PB & Jelly, veggie, fruit, and milk. This will be charged to the student's meal account at the reduced rate.

Parents/Guardians are responsible for meal payment to the food service program. Notices of low or deficit balances will be sent to parents/guardians at regular intervals during the school year. Any delinquent accounts will be handled by Martha Estrada, Food Director and if needed Mr. Bryan Bullington, Superintendent.

All School Cafeterias possess computerized point of sale/cash register systems that maintain records of all monies deposited and spent for each student and said records are available by speaking with the cafeteria manager.

Students/Parents/Guardians pay for meals in advance via www.bagdadschools.org, cash, or with a check payable to BUSD. 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.

Refunds for withdrawn and graduating students; a written request for a refund of any money remaining in their account must be submitted. An e-mail request to estradam@bagdadschools.org is also acceptable. 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.

Unclaimed Funds must be requested within one school year. Unclaimed funds will then become the property of the Bagdad School Food Service Program.

Balances Owed Collection of owed balances will follow the policies and procedures set by M.G.L. Chapter 71: Section 72. Sale of lunches.

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. Applications are available in both of the high school and elementary offices, cafeteria, or online. For assistance contact Martha Estrada (928) 633-4101 or email to estradam@bagdadschools.org.