

OUR VISION

"Transforming the path for student growth and achievement."

To: All Parents of Augusta Area School District Students

From: Ryan Nelson, District Administrator

Subject: Student Meal Charge Policy

All public school districts in Wisconsin are required to have a written and clearly communicated policy to address student meal charges when payment cannot be collected at the point of service. The U.S. Department of Agriculture requires this policy be shared with all parents annually. Additionally, these student meal charge policies should be reasonable, clearly defined and maintain the integrity and dignity of all students and households. The Augusta Area School District Board of Education policy regarding student meal charges and delinquent accounts was updated in 2018.

Please refer to the attachment which includes the Augusta Area School District's student meal charge policy and negative account balance policy and procedures. There are two important items of note:

- The Augusta Area School District Food Service Department will continue to notify families when their child's lunch account is approaching a negative balance.
- A student that has exceeded the permissible negative balance amount will be provided an alternative meal, subject to USDA guidelines applicable to alternative meals. Once an account reaches a **negative balance of \$50 or more** the student will be provided a peanut butter sandwich, piece of fruit, and water.

It should be noted that charging of items outside of the reimbursable meals (i.e., a la carte items) is expressly prohibited.

Should you have any questions regarding this policy please contact the Augusta Area School District Food Service Department at 715-286-3304.

Ryan C. Nelson
District Administrator

Kenneth J. Abel
MS & HS Principal

Nicole R. Stelnmetz
Elementary Principal

Book	Policy Manual
Section	8000 Operations
Title	FOOD SERVICES
Number	po8500
Status	Active
Adopted	August 17, 2011
Last Revised	April 23, 2018

8500 - FOOD SERVICES

The Board of Education shall provide cafeteria facilities in all school buildings where space permits, and will provide food service for the purchase and consumption of lunch for all students.

The Board shall also provide a breakfast program in accordance with procedures established by the Department of Public Instruction.

The food-service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the selection, preparation, delivery, consumption, and disposal of food and beverages, including but not limited to the current USDA's school meal pattern requirements and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, as well as to the fiscal management of the program. Further, the food-service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the fiscal management of the program as well as all the requirements pertaining to food service hiring and food service manager/operator licensure and certification.

The Board shall approve and implement nutrition standards governing the types of food and beverages that may be sold on the premises of its schools and shall specify the time and place each type of food or beverage may be sold. In adopting such standards, the Board shall:

- A. consider the nutritional value of each food or beverage;
- B. consult and incorporate to the maximum extent possible the dietary guidelines for Americans jointly developed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and
- C. consult and incorporate the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines.

No food or beverage may be sold on any school premises except in accordance with the standards approved by the Board.

In addition, as required by law, a food safety program based on the principles of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system shall be implemented with the intent of preventing food-borne illnesses. For added safety and security, access to the facility and the food stored and prepared therein shall be limited to food service staff and other authorized persons.

Substitutions to the standard meal requirements shall be made, at no additional charge, for students for whom a health care provider who has prescriptive authority in the State of Wisconsin has provided medical certification that the student's medical condition restricts his/her diet, in accordance with the criteria set forth in 7 C.F.R. Part 15b. To qualify for such substitutions the medical certification must identify:

- A. the student's medical condition or symptoms of a condition that restricts one (1) or more major life activity or function;
- B. an explanation of how the condition or symptom affects the student's diet; and
- C. the food(s) to be omitted from the student's diet, and the food or choice of foods that must be substituted (e.g., caloric modifications or use of liquid nutritive formula).

On a case by case basis, substitutions to the standard meal requirements may be made, at no additional charge, for students who provide a signed statement from a qualified medical authority that the student cannot consume certain food items due to medical or other special dietary needs, but which does not comply with the requirements above. To qualify for such consideration and substitutions the medical statement must identify:

- A. the medical or dietary need that restricts the student's diet; and

B. the food(s) to be omitted from the student's diet and the food(s) or choice of foods that may be substituted.

The District may provide a student with a substitute meal without any certification provided that the meal still meets the USDA meal pattern for reimbursement.

Lunches sold by the school may be purchased by students and staff members and community residents in accordance with the rules of the District's school lunch program.

The operation and supervision of the food-service program shall be the responsibility of the District Administrator and the Food Service Supervisor. Food services shall be operated on a self-supporting basis with revenue from students, staff, Federal reimbursement, and surplus food. The Board shall assist the program by furnishing available space, initial major equipment, and utensils. Maintenance and replacement of equipment is the responsibility of the program.

Bad debt incurred through the inability to collect lunch payment from students is not an allowable cost chargeable to any Federal program. Any related collection cost, including legal cost, arising from such bad debt after they have been determined to be uncollectable are also unallowable.

Negative Account Balances

Students will be permitted to purchase meals from the District's food service using either cash on hand or a food service account. A student may be allowed to incur a negative food service account balance subject to the following conditions.

Students may be permitted to accumulate negative food service account balance as determined by the District Administrator. The District Administrator shall determine the manner of determining permissible account balances by grade level. A student shall not be permitted to purchase a la carte items without sufficient account balance or cash on hand.

A student that has exceeded the permissible negative balance amount in his/her account and does not have cash on hand sufficient to purchase a meal will be provided an alternative meal, subject to USDA guidelines applicable to alternative meals. The District Administrator shall, in coordination with the District's food services, assure that any alternative meals provided to any student receiving paid or reduced price meals that is either claimed for reimbursement or charged to the student account, meets all of the requisite USDA guidelines for alternative meals.

This policy and any implementing guidelines shall be provided in writing to all households at the start of each school year and to households transferring to the school or School District during the school year. The policy and implementing guidelines will also be provided to all District staff with responsibility for enforcing the policies. The policy and guidelines will be posted on the District website.

The food-service program may participate in the "Farm to School Program" using locally grown food in school meals and snacks.

Nondiscrimination Statement

The following statement applies to all programs administered by the District that are funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA):

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- A. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

9/13/2018

BoardDocs@ PL

B. Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

C. E-mail: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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Legal

42 U.S.C., Chapter 13

7 C.F.R. 210, 215, 220, 240

15.137, 93.49, 115.34-115.345, 120.10(16), 120.13(10), Wis. Stats.