

## **Child Nutrition Charge Policy 2024-2025**

### ACA's Official Charge Policy:

It is our goal as ACA child nutrition staff to provide healthy meals for any student regardless of their ability to pay. Using meal supplies on hand, an alternate meal will be put together by the cafeteria staff and delivered to any student in need in the usual manner without indications of the student's ability to pay. Café managers would provide alternate meals to the same student up to 3 times per semester at their discretion as determined by need.

The child nutrition system is set up to send alerts concerning student accounts. A low funds balance warning and a charge limit warning alert email is sent to parents three days before the low credit limit is reached and at least five days before students would have need to access an alternate meal provision. The amount of the allowable charge is the cost for two meals for all students which would cover either breakfast and lunch or two lunch meals if the student did not customarily eat breakfast. This procedure allows parents warning and sufficient time to replenish funds on the student's account or make other arrangements if necessary. Although the CN system sends out alert emails, the cafeteria managers also send out note reminders that they provide to students when the student's account runs low on funds. No money is received at the POS terminal and therefore notices provided to students do not in any way reveal if they are receiving free or reduced meal benefits.

Students who receive free or reduced meal benefits are never refused a reimbursable meal, although if their account runs low on funds they may be refused ala carte or other extra items as is the case with any student. All students have the opportunity to purchase ala carte items.

This charge policy is available on the school website under the section devoted to school nutrition.

This policy was approved by the ACA Board of Directors on November 21, 2024 in a regular board meeting.