

Auburn Union School District
Child Nutrition Department
Meal Charging Policy

School Meal Charge Process

Created with the following goals in mind:

- To establish a consistent district policy regarding payment for school meals;
- To be fair and respectful to all students at all times;
- To support clear understanding and positive interactions with students, parents/guardians, and staff;
- To maintain financial integrity and fiscal responsibility within the Child Nutrition Program

The Auburn Union School District recognizes that healthy nutritious meals are an important component to student readiness and ability to learn.

In accordance with state and federal law AUSD adopts this credit/charge meal process to establish school district procedures and ensure that all employees, families, and students in the district share an understanding of expectations regarding meal charges.

This policy allows students to receive the nutrition they need for the school day, prevents overt identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals, and maintains the financial integrity of the nonprofit school nutrition program.

Apply for FREE or REDUCED School Meals

Parents/Guardians will be notified within 10 days of a negative balance in their child's school meal account.

If you think you may qualify, or if your income changes at any time during the school year, you may apply on line at:

Auburn.k12.ca.us (several languages available online).

You may also submit a hard copy application available at your school office and cafeteria.

You are responsible for all lunch charges until your application is processed and approved.

Families are notified if their student(s) qualify (or don't qualify) for the meal program via letter once the application is processed.

STUDENTS WITH FREE LUNCH STATUS

- The federal school lunch program allows a qualifying student to receive a **FREE** reimbursable school breakfast and lunch every day.
- A student that qualifies for **FREE** breakfast and lunch shall never be denied a reimbursable meal, even if they've accrued a balance from a previous purchase prior to qualifying.
- A student that accrues school meal charges before they qualify for **FREE** breakfast and/or lunch is still responsible for those charges.

STUDENTS WITH REDUCED PRICE LUNCH STATUS

- The federal school lunch program allows a qualifying student to receive a reimbursable breakfast and lunch at a reduced price; however, AUSD waives this price and these students eat at no charge.
- A student that qualifies for **REDUCED** breakfast and lunch shall never be denied a reimbursable meal, even if they've accrued a balance from previous purchases.
- Parents or guardians are responsible for meal charges that a student accrues prior to receiving approval for free or reduced lunches or breakfast.

STUDENTS WHO PAY FULL PRICE FOR LUNCH

- Prices for school lunch are set by the Auburn Union School District in accordance with federal and state regulations.
- Parents/Guardians are responsible for all meals charges.

MEAL CHARGING POLICY

Elementary and Middle School Students whose parents allow their accounts to reach a negative balance of \$20.00 will be provided an alternate meal for two days before being denied a meal. .

Advertised meals will be served on a cash only basis until the negative balance is paid.

Ongoing communication in the form of a phone call or a letter will be sent home in the mail for those who have reached their charging limit.

If there is no response within 30 days, a new letter will be sent home.

On **May 1st** of each school year students will no longer be allowed to charge their meals.

The Child Nutrition Department will never deny a child who is on our free or reduced program a reimbursable meal no matter what the negative balance is.

An adult is never allowed to charge a meal.