



LOCAL MEAL CHARGE ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

It is the philosophy of The Learning Center for the Deaf to provide nutritious meals to all students who wish to purchase a meal or are eligible for a free or reduced-price meal per the regulations of the National School Lunch Program. Parents are responsible for providing their children with meals or applying for free or reduced-price meals when appropriate. A student will not be denied breakfast or lunch due to a lack of money or a negative food account balance. A child will not be denied a school meal because of parental negligence, as we know this unfairly punishes children and impedes their ability to learn.

Regulations and Guidelines

This policy is informed by rules and guidelines published by the United States Department of Agriculture under the National School Lunch Program, Massachusetts General Law, and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office for Food and Nutrition Programs.

Policy on Communicating Student Food Account Balances

Because Massachusetts provides universal free breakfasts and lunches to all students in public schools, students will never have an account balance for meals they receive at school. Employees who wish to purchase meals will also not have an account balance because these meals will be deducted from their payroll.

Policy Communications

This policy shall be communicated to all staff and families at the beginning of each school year and to families transferring to the district during the year.

LEGAL REFS: MGL [71:72](#); USDA School Meal Program Guidelines May 2017

CROSS REFS: [JQ](#), Student Fees, Fines & Charges