

Unpaid Meal Charges Policy

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requires all School Food Authorities (SFAs) operating federal school meal programs to have a written and clearly communicated policy to address unpaid meal charges by August 26, 2018.

The Southeastern School District's free and reduced meal rate is 63%. The Southeastern School District's role in determining eligibility for free and reduced meals is based on guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The following procedures will be used to address unpaid meal charges:

1. Parents/guardians will be notified on a daily basis if their child's account has a negative balance. The communication will be a text message and the approximate time of the text will be 6:00 p.m. daily. There will be no phone calls; however, any amount of deficit will prompt a daily text message.
2. All students (including students eligible for free and reduced meals) will not be allowed to charge extra milk or seconds on their account. Only cash will be accepted for extra milk and seconds.
3. Parents/guardians who are not eligible for free and reduced meals, but are struggling to pay for their child's meals, should contact the district superintendent to set up an acceptable payment plan. All unpaid meal charges must be paid completely by June 30. This option should be initiated by the parent.
4. If a student has a negative account balance, amounting to \$50 or more, at the end of the fiscal year (June 30th), the charges will be turned over to the collection agency.