

LAKE WALES CHARTER SCHOOLS

FOOD SERVICE ACCOUNT BALANCE AND ALTERNATIVE MEAL POLICY

2019-2020

Good nutrition is a key factor in student success. The LWCS system recognizes that everyone forgets to send money for his/her child occasionally. The system also recognizes the need for good financial responsibility for our food service programs to be successful. When school meals are not paid for, both the students and the school system are impacted. Particularly at a time when food costs are escalating, it becomes even more critical to receive payment from families for meals provided at school.

We recommend and encourage parents to regularly deposit monies into the student's account. Should the occasion arise when there is a zero balance in the student's account, LWCS will allow the student to charge one day of regular food service which includes one breakfast at the cost of \$1.25 (which is the full price) and one lunch at the cost of \$2.90 (full price). After this threshold is reached the student will be offered an alternative meal.

**Students that are approved for free meals will not be denied a meal, even if they have a negative balance for other cafeteria purchases. This provision does not include meals purchased from A la' cart.*

A student carrying a negative balance can purchase regular meals if monies are provided to cover the cost of that day's meal service. While carrying, the negative balance will not preclude the student from participating in the regular lunch program if monies are provided for the meal service, it may impede his/her participation in extracurricular activities such as field trips, dances, and/or special events until the account has been paid in full.

Letters will be delivered weekly to students whose account balances are reflecting a negative balance and reminders will be sent to parents via e-mail for those who have established online accounts on k12paymentcenter.com. Registration for this service is free; however, bank fees will be applied for all deposits made online. LWCS encourages all parents to register for this service to monitor their student's account information.

Families may qualify for free or reduced-price meals. To determine qualification status, parents must complete a Free and Reduced Lunch Application and return it to the school office. Parents will still be responsible for any charges that have previously accrued, as well as any charges that are incurred while the application is being reviewed. Students who had received free or reduced-price status at a school belonging to Lake Wales Charter Schools, by the end of the previous year, will receive those benefits for the first 30 school days of the new school year. However, it is imperative that the parent complete an application within the first month of the new school year to reestablish benefits in accordance with current National School Lunch Program guidelines. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact the principal at your student's school.

**LWCS will protect the confidentiality of a student's meal benefits by utilizing a point of sale system that does not overtly distinguish a student as having paid, free, or reduced status.*

A copy of this policy may be found on LWCS website and will be given to the student at the beginning of the school year along with the lunch benefit application. Policy may also be obtained anytime by contacting Chris Reams at 863-215-8440. *Families enrolling students after the beginning of the school will be given a copy of this policy at the time of enrollment.*

Current Full Pay Meal Pricing:

| | <u>Adult</u> | <u>Student</u> | <u>Reduced-Price Student</u> |
|-----------|--------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Breakfast | \$2.00 | \$1.25 | .30 |
| Lunch | \$3.50 | \$2.90 | .40 |