

### Unpaid Meal Charges

In order to comply with state and federal meal reimbursement guidelines, student meal accounts are not allowed to incur debt larger than five times the high school lunch rate. If a student's account reaches a negative balance that exceeds the charge limit, the student is no longer allowed to charge meals and will be provided an alternative meal by the district for up to 5 days. The alternative meal consists of a carton of milk and a cheese sandwich. Since it is provided free to the student, it must be at a minimal cost to the district. After this period, parents/guardians must send money or make arrangements for student meals. When a student's meal account balance gets below \$10.00 an automated message alerts each parent/guardian of their student's meal balance. Parents/guardians may also log in to Powerschool at any time to check meal account balances. School personnel make every effort to collect unpaid meal charges by contacting the parent/guardian through phone calls, emails, and or letters in order to avoid students not receiving a hot meal. **All delinquent debt should be paid in full by the end of the school year. Any debts not collected by the end of the school year will be transferred from non-federal funds to food service.**

Parents/guardians are encouraged to fill out an application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals at the beginning of the school year or any point thereafter. Families who do not qualify initially, but have a change in circumstances, should reapply. If a student's meal status changes to a free or reduced status, all outstanding balances must still be paid in full.