

Food Service

Charging Policy

The North Stonington Board of Education (The Board) participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) (all schools) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) (Middle/High School only). These programs are federally funded and are administered on the national level by the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service and at the state level by the Connecticut Department of Education.

The Board is responsible for adhering to the federal and state guidelines and regulations pertaining to the Child Nutrition Programs offered and for providing free and reduced price meals to students enrolled in the District's schools. Meals are planned to meet the specific nutrient standards outlined by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The Board realizes that, according to federal regulations, funds from the non-profit food service account cannot be used to cover the cost of charged meals that have not been paid. Federal funds are intended to subsidize the meals of children and may not be used to subsidize meals for adults. Adults are not allowed to charge meals and shall pay for meals at the time of service or through pre-paid accounts.

The District uses NutriKids, an automated prepayment system which allows parents/guardians to view their child's meal account balance and purchases and to make deposits to those accounts. The district maintains a "no charging policy" for the students in the District not receiving free or reduced meals. In addition, students receiving free or reduced meals may not charge items which are not part of the reimbursable meal. This policy will be strictly enforced to eliminate unnecessary debt within the School Food Service Program.

While the district maintains a "no charging policy," it does want to ensure that all students have access to a nutritious meal and will allow a \$5.00 negative account credit for students whom, from time to time, forget to add monies to their account, **however**, students with negative balances in excess of \$5.00 **will not** be allowed to purchase food items on credit.

This policy shall be included in student/parent handbooks, placed on the District's website, and published at the beginning of each school year at the time information is distributed regarding free and reduced price meals.