



## North Stonington Public Schools

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PETER L. NERO  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DEBORAH MARTIN  
BUSINESS MANAGER

September 16, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The North Stonington Public School District provides school lunch services through a private vendor; the company that we use is Aramark. We contract the company on an annual basis. The contract is typical of those used throughout the state and includes a number of terms and conditions that both the vendor and district must meet.

All accounting from food services are not included in the general fund but rather in an *enterprise* account. One of the conditions in the contract is a "guarantee" of a dollar value based on a number of meals that must be sold. When we do not meet that guarantee, we then have to take money from our general fund and place it into the enterprise account in order to cover the deficit. The same holds true for those students that owe money for unpaid lunches. It is all part of the guarantee. In reality, what we are doing is taking funds away to purchase textbooks, paper, and computers to supplement for unpaid meals.

With that stated, when children do not have enough, or, any money in his/her lunch account, we have been generous and allow students to "run a tab," so to speak, in order for them to eat lunch. You can imagine the deficit that we would incur if a large number of students over spent his/her lunch account. That would result in the district food service account being in debt which would take funding away from instructional materials and services impacting on education.

We kindly ask that your child's account be current. If your child's account should be in deficit, you will receive a notice. If you need to make arrangements, please contact Business Manager, Mrs. Deb Martin, at 860-535-2800 ext. 3, or [martind@northstonington.k12.ct.us](mailto:martind@northstonington.k12.ct.us). She would be happy to work with you on this matter. If you feel that you may qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, that form can be found on our website, [www.northstonington.k12.ct.us](http://www.northstonington.k12.ct.us).

We appreciate your understanding in this matter as we try to provide the best food service and educational programs to our children. You should know that the administration and Aramark meet regularly with students in small groups to discuss our food services. At those meetings we take their input and advice in order to provide a better food and services that fall within the federal guidelines. As a result, over the last several years, our participation has increased as we continue to provide healthy fresh foods.

Please note, if your child is on free or reduced-price lunches, they only qualify to receive the regular, full school lunch and not a la carte items. They must pay in cash separately for those items.

Yours truly,

Peter L. Nero  
Superintendent of Schools