

Great Hearts Meal Charge Policy

Purpose

The goal of Great Hearts in partnership with our food service vendor is to provide students with nutritious and delicious food each day. However, unpaid meal charges place a large financial burden on our schools. The purpose of this policy is to remain compliant with the USDA Child Nutrition Program as well as to provide clear guidelines for the collection of outstanding student meal balances.

Policy

It is the responsibility of the parent to provide their children with their meals. They can do this in one of 3 ways:

1. Send a breakfast/lunch with the child to school.
2. Pay for a meal to be purchased at the school.
3. Apply to determine eligibility to receive free or reduced meals (\$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch).

A maximum limit of negative twenty (\$20) dollars can be charged to an account. Once it has reached that negative balance amount of \$20.00, a student will not be able to purchase any additional meals or a la carte items until the negative balance has been resolved. The school may discreetly offer the child an alternative snack (example: carrots, pretzels and milk) at no charge. Seconds (charged at full price) or a la carte items must be prepaid.

The same policy will apply to adults and faculty participating in the school lunch program, except that adult will not be provided an alternative snack. Notification of account balances will be provided to the parents on a regular basis by email or phone.

Parents/Guardians are responsible for meal payment. The parent can prepay at mymealtime.com or by cash or check (preferred) directly to the school. Checks are to be made payable to the campus. Great Hearts strongly encourages parents to pre-pay for their student's meals.

Great Hearts is committed to providing meals for students who choose to participate in the program. However, it is the responsibility of the parent to satisfy all financial obligations to the lunch program in a timely manner. If a parent is unable to provide a meal for their child, they are encouraged to complete an application for free or reduced meals available in English and Spanish at any school. If determined to be eligible, children will receive the regular meal at a free or reduced rate. Applications can be completed at any time during the school year should circumstances change and for renewal each year.

A refund request must be submitted in writing for any remaining balances for graduated or withdrawn students before it will be provided. A positive balance will rollover to the following school year.
