



"I Need Lunch Money" source: John Bivens

Ashamed & Hungry:

An Inventory of School Lunch Shaming Policies in California

For more information about Western Center on Law and Poverty's anti-hunger policy advocacy, go to:

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ABSTRACT

Reports of students being publicly shamed or forced to go hungry for unpaid school meal fees and of school food service workers being fired for refusing to implement the "school lunch shaming" policies began surfacing in national media outlets in 2010, but became more prevalent in recent years. Since then, there has been a flurry of state and federal legislation to curtail these policies. This paper documents the problem and presents an inventory of California school policies that call for public shaming of children and denial of food and services to children when their families have unpaid school lunch debt. This inventory was completed in May of 2017 in an effort to better inform the policy analysis for Senate Bill 250 (Hertzberg) which seeks to eliminate these policies throughout the state.

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Introduction

John Bivens' son was stamped on the hand for not having lunch money. On his wrist were the words "I need lunch money" and a single happy face. Mr. Bivens is one of the many parents across the country who have spoken out about a policy referred to as "school lunch shaming," designed to shame children in the lunch room in order to encourage their parents to pay down school lunch debt.ⁱ

Hand-stamping is just one of the school lunch shaming strategies used by school districts in order to send a message home to parents who owe school meal debt by taking action against their children. Other strategies include denying children services, barring their participation in school activities, denying a meal, or full meal, to a child requiring them to eat what is referred to as "an alternative meal." As an example, our research found that in Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the alternative meal offered to children whose parents have unpaid school meal debt is a half of a cheese sandwich. In other schools, it is a granola bar or a cheese stick and a piece of fruit is served as an alternative meal. A policy that has been removed effective this month.

These school lunch shaming policies began capturing the attention of news media outlets before the last Child Nutrition Reauthorization. As a result, the federal reauthorization directed the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to look into the issue of unpaid school lunch fees, determine whether there was a need for a national policy and to establish one if they determined one was needed. To comply with the new law, the Obama Administration solicited comments on the topic of unpaid school meal debt and alternative meal policies and subsequently established a workgroup to further inform the drafting of regulation.ⁱⁱ The Food Research and Action Center and the Western Center on Law and Poverty, both co-sponsors of the California legislation to end the practice of school lunch debt related shaming, Senate Bill 250 (Hertzberg), participated on that workgroup. Following the workgroup, the USDA issued two new regulations, but neither resulted in protections against using a refusal of food as a means to coerce a parent's payment or in any way punish or discipline a child. The guidance requires that, no later than July 1, 2017, all schools operating NSLP must have a written and clearly communicated meal charge policy in order to ensure a consistent and transparent approach to this issue.ⁱⁱⁱ

Anti-hunger advocates in Minnesota were the first to take on this policy. The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP), with the help of MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and Share our Strength, analyzed 309 public school districts in Minnesota to collect data on their school lunch policies and practices addressing low-income children with insufficient lunch money. Their findings show that 15% of Minnesota public schools denied any type of meal to students, while

54% offered a less nutritious alternative meal. Their findings also show schools used a variety of methods to inform parents about their child's negative balance, including "verbally warning children" and/or "threatening legal action against parents for unpaid lunch debts" (p 3). In 2014, the Minnesota legislature passed legislation to ban this practice and in early 2017, New Mexico and Hawaii followed suit, A Texas bill was introduced but failed passage.

This paper documents our research of the 205 most populous schools in California. What we found was that 63% of these California schools do not have a publically available district-wide policy or procedure related to unpaid school meal debt. Only 75 of the 201 school districts analyzed provided some form of formal meal debt policy and 35% of those had policies which either refused students a meal or shamed them for having school meal debt.

Background on National School Lunch Program

Established by Congress in 1946, the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is one of the most important federal programs to combat child hunger and improve school attendance and outcomes. Since July 1 1970, the Secretary of Agriculture has determined the federal income poverty guidelines used to decide eligibility for a variety of assistive programs, including access to free and reduced price meals (FRPM). In order for a student to qualify for free meals their household income must be at or below 130% of the federal poverty line, while reduced price meal eligibility requires a child's household to be at or below 185% of the federal poverty line. Through the NSLP program, impoverished students are served free breakfast and lunch meals, while reduced price students may purchase school lunch at a maximum of 40 cents and breakfast at a maximum of 30 cents. Except for in those schools eligible for Provision 2 or Community Eligibility, as described below, when a child's family income is over 185% or their parents do not apply for the program, the child must bring a lunch to school, pay a price set by the school district for a meal prepared by the NSLP or go hungry.

School districts are given the authority to determine the policy for how to respond when a student who is not eligible for a free or reduced price meal shows up to school with no money to pay for a mid-day school meal. With the exception of students with reduced-price status, schools can even chose to deny a child a meal that they have money to pay for that day if they have unpaid debt from prior lunches. . Some school districts provide the regular meal of the day to students and bill the parents later, while other school districts instruct school food workers to deny children a meal that day or to feed them an "alternative meal," for which they also bill the parent or guardian.

Our research found that many school districts distinguish between a child that does not have lunch money for just that day and children whose parents owe unpaid school lunch fees from lunches served to the student for several days when they do not have money to pay a school meal. As a result, these schools accrue debt from the unpaid meals, some of which is not paid back. According to the most recent national survey conducted by the School Nutrition Association, 76.3% of school districts across the United States report that families have accrued unpaid student meal debt. This means that a significant percentage of U.S. students are likely to be subject to school district policies relating to unpaid school meal debt.

Provision 2 and Community Eligibility Best Way to Prevent Lunch Shaming

Provision 2 (1980) and Community Eligibility Provision (CEP, 2010) programs are the most effective at reducing child hunger, providing schools the opportunity to serve breakfast and/or lunch to all students regardless of their family income.

Under Community Eligibility Provision, schools where at least 40% of the students are certified to receive free school meals without an application, because they live in households that that participate in SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, Medicaid, or who are homeless, migrant, or in foster care or Head Start, can offer free meals to all students. To determine the schools reimbursement for school meals, the percentage of students who are certified without a school meal application is multiplied by 1.6 to account for the students who would have been certified for free or reduced-price school meals. For example, a school with 50 percent would be reimbursed for 80 percent of its meals at the free rate and 20 percent at the paid rate.

These federal options allow schools to reduce costs by not spending resources on processing meal applications each school year. As a result, not only are fewer children experiencing hunger in Provision 2 and CEP schools, the school lunch personnel do not struggle to collect unpaid meal debt and the children who attend those schools are not in danger of being subjected to school lunch shaming policies.

While Provision 2 and CEP are the best policy options for ensuring that children are not subjected to school meal shaming, most children in California are not covered by these provisions. This is because some schools that are eligible for CEP have not sought it and others simply don't qualify under these provisions. Those schools will continue to have students who are required to pay for a meal if they eat the meal prepared by the school and, as a result, will need to establish

a policy for how to respond when a child comes to school without adequate lunch money.

Figure 1, provides data on the type of provisional programs California schools are enrolled into. In California alone, over 8,500 schools don't utilize CEP or Provision 2 (either because they are not eligible or they are eligible but have opted not to). Recent data, from the California Department of Education,^{iv} shows almost 1,300 schools are under Provision 2 status and only 319 are benefiting from CEP status. Another 312 only provide either a breakfast or lunch meal to every student.

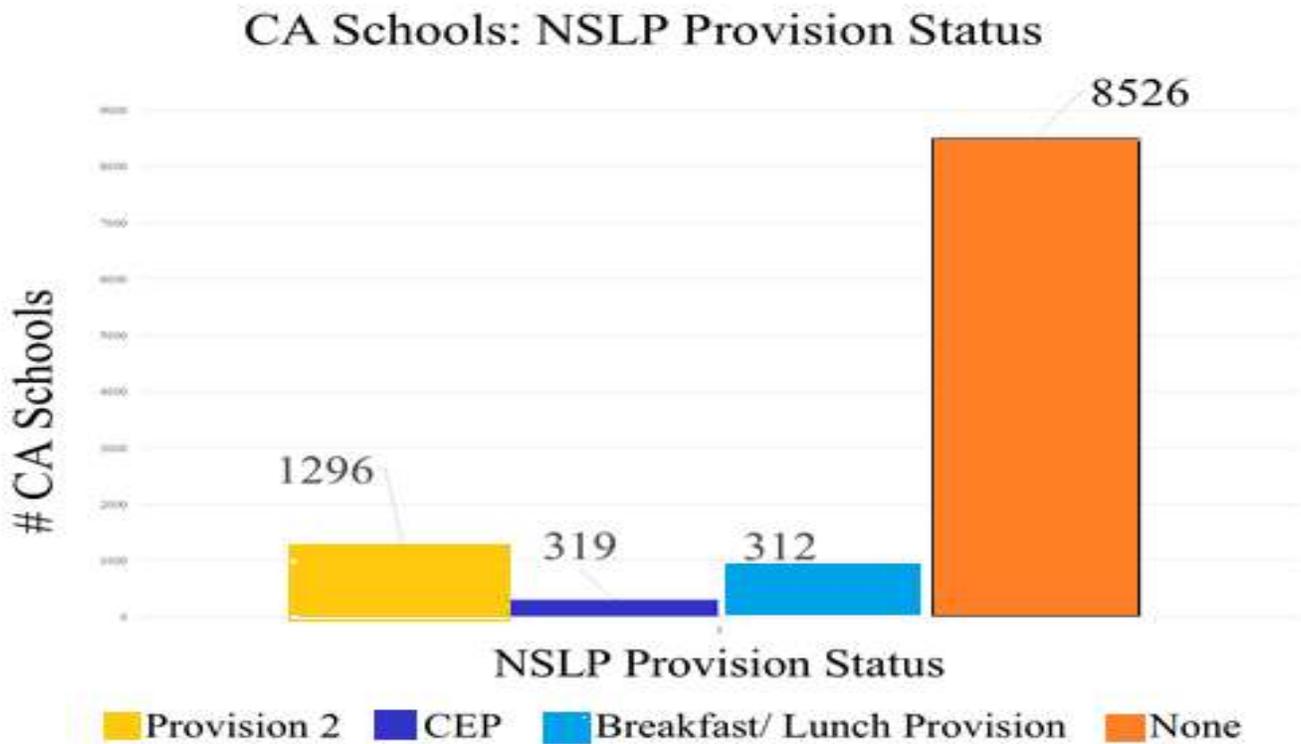


Figure 1. FRPM 2015-2016 Data
Data Source: California Department of Education

Not only are most children not attending schools utilizing Provision 2 or CEP, the number of California school children receiving reduced price meals provided to students has continued to decline since 2013. At the same time, the percentage of full priced meals has continued to increase over time. While these trends are likely due to positive economic factors, like decreased unemployment and increases in regional and state minimum wages, we also know that some families found ineligible for the reduced price meal only earn just slightly above the eligibility criteria and really struggle to pay full priced meals. This is because the poverty guidelines used to determine eligibility for free or reduced price meals

under the NSLP are determined by federal standards and do not consider a state's cost of living. This means that children whose family income is not eligible for the NSLP free or reduced price meals may still not be able to meet the family's basic needs, including food needs.

Most students in California attend a school that still collect NSLP applications, leaving the opportunity for a children whose family income would make them eligible for the program to be required to pay for a meal. School district personnel expect the number of children that fit into this category to increase in the 2017-18 school year due to increased fear caused by President Donald Trump's actions and statements made with the intention of intimidating immigrant families.

Figure 2 provides detail on the increased number of children falling into the NSLP "paid lunches" category.

Since 2013, % of Paid Meals Up While Reduced Price Meals Decline

| | % of Change 2013–14 to 2014– 15 | % of Change 2014–15 to 2015– 16 | % of Change 2013–14 to 2015– 16 |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| → Free | -0.32% | -0.33% | -0.65% |
| → Reduced | -1.30% | -2.49% | -3.75% |
| → Paid | 1.49% | 0.98% | 2.48% |
| → Overall | -0.10% | -0.33% | -0.43% |

Figure 2: Change in FRPM lunches

Graphic Source: California Department of Education

Our Research on California's School Lunch Shaming Policies

In order to better understand how school lunch shaming policies were impacting California's school children, we performed a content analysis of the district policies. Specifically, we completed an inventory of the published policies for the 2016-2017 school year of the 201 of the most populous school districts in CA serving a range of 8,700 to 640,000 students. We found that 63% of the 201 most populous schools in California do not have a district-wide policy or have not published their policy. Of the 75 schools that had published policy, 12% did

not provide a meal or denied a meal to their student's when they did not have sufficient meal funds. Another 21% of the 75 school districts provided a non-nutritious alternative meal and/or used some form of shaming practice against students with insufficient meal funds. In total 33% of the meal policies either refused students a meal or shamed them for having school meal debt. Notable policy findings affecting children lacking meal funds:

- School districts stamped children who failed to pay for their meal fees;
- School districts would not allow a student to participate in field trips and other school activities if their parents had unpaid school meal debt;
- School districts withheld grades or high school diplomas from students; and,
- School districts had no protections for children with special needs.

These policies vary across schools and are not applicable across an entire district. 20% percent of the schools in these districts participate in either Provision 2 or CEP and so the district lunch shaming policy would not apply to students attending those schools. Another 19% provided some form of nutritious alternative meal to students with insufficient funds.

A State Policy Solution to School Lunch Shaming is Needed

While current federal^v and state law^{vi} and guidance establishes protections for children certified for the NSLP, there is no current policy protecting a child who has not been certified for school meals from being treated differently in the cafeteria as a result of unpaid school meal fees.

Federal legislation introduced by Representative Keith Ellison (D-MI) introduced in 2010, and subsequently by by-partisan co-authors just this year have yet to receive a hearing.^{vii} The guidance established by the USDA as a Result of the National Hunger Free Kids Act did not offer this protection^{viii} The guidance only requires that, no later than July 1, 2017, all schools operating NSLP must have a written and clearly communicated meal charge policy in order to ensure a consistent and transparent approach to this issue. It does not require that these policies prevent shaming or that the policies be posted publically. We have already begun the process of monitoring school district implementation of this policy and encouraging local school boards to use this opportunity to remove shaming polices in their districts.

While all school districts can optionally remove or ban school lunch shaming policies, we believe that they should be barred by state law from having them on the books. California should pass Senate Bill 250 (Hertzberg) in order to prevent the use of policies that seek to coerce a child's parents to pay an unpaid school meal debt by denying a child a meal, serving them a less-than-nutritious meal or shaming them.

Appendix One

The following schools districts 2016-17 school meal policies call for children to be denied food when their parent or guardian has unpaid school meal debt:

Fremont Unified

Berkeley Unified

Glendale Unified

Merced Union High

ABC Unified

Tulare City

San Mateo-Foster City

Western Placer Unified

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified

The following school districts 2016-17 school meal policies call for children to be shamed when their parent or guardian has unpaid school meal debt:

Los Angeles Unified

Hemet Unified

Long Beach Unified

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified

San Bernardino City Unified

Napa Valley Unified

San Juan Unified

Central Unified

Sacramento City Unified

Carlsbad Unified

Lodi Unified

Lucia Mar Unified

Torrance Unified

Beaumont Unified

Murrieta Valley Unified

Brentwood Union Elementary

Appendix Two

The following is an inventory of school district policies (with links to the policy) related to unpaid school meal debt was completed in April and May of 2017 by Yesenia Jimenez on behalf of the Western Center on Law & Poverty. We were unable to locate a publicly available policy for 63% of the 201 most populous schools in California. Of the remaining schools, a significant number had policies instructing school food service workers to deny a child food or to shame them as a means to elicit from their parent or guardians payment of back owed school meal debt.

It is important to note that not all children in these school districts are subject to the school lunch shaming policies cited below. 23% of all 10,453 schools in California are certified as either a Community Eligibility Provision School* (CEP) or Provision II** school, which provide a universal meal for all students regardless of family income. Those students should not be impacted by school lunch shaming policies, even if they are in a district that has one, since their school offers free meals to all students. Additionally, children in these districts certified to receive free or reduced price meals will likely not be subject to the school lunch shaming policies; however, while state law does not allow a child eligible for a reduce price mid-day meal to be denied a nutritionally adequate mid-day meal, our research found that some schools are still taking action against children when their parents owe accumulated “reduced priced” fees.

Please note that some school districts have removed or altered their online policies when they received a Public Record Act Request (PRAR) from Western Center.

Los Angeles Unified School District

http://notebook.lausd.net/pls/ptl/docs/PAGE/CA_LAUSD/FLDR_ORGANIZATIONS/FLDR_BUSINESS_SVCS/BUL4888-%20ALTERNATE%20MEAL%20-10-28-09.PDF

NOTE: Since a draft of this report was first shared with LAUSD, they have changed this policy, the new policy, effective August 1, 2017 is posted at: <https://achieve.lausd.net/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/Domain/126/Parent%20Ltr.%2017-18%20Unpaid%20Student%20Meal%20Charges.pdf>

This is the policy that ended on August 1st: The Alternate Meal Policy only applies to a non-reduced price student*** who forgot his/ her lunch money, Provision 2 schools are exempt from the Alternative Meal Policy. [Non-reduced] price students will receive an alternate meal at the designated “replacement ticket window.” The alternate meal will consist of a half cheese sandwich and a four

ounce fruit juice. Modification to the alternate meal will be made for students who have a Special Diet Request on file documenting an allergy to a component of the alternate meal. Students will be informed that they will receive an alternate meal when they come through the line, if they must pay for their meal and do not have a pre-paid meal ticket or money for the meal. Los Angeles Unified School District currently serves 639,337 school children.

***non-reduced price students are defined as students who are not certified under free and reduced price meal status.

San Juan Unified School District

http://district.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/sanjuanusd/files/Meal_Charges_for_Full_Pay_Students.pdf

NOTE: Since a draft copy of this report was first shared with the San Juan Unified School District, they have since removed the policy of hand stamping children. The Food Services Department will not extend credit for more than one day's meal (breakfast and lunch) for Elementary non-reduced price students. No meal charge will be allowed for Secondary Students. This includes 6th grade students at K-8 schools who participate in the 7th and 8th grade lunch service. This policy does not apply to Reduced-Pay students. Any Elementary non-reduced price student who does not have funds (either cash or pre-paid meals) will be allowed to charge one day's meal (breakfast and lunch). When the Elementary full-pay student charges the first meal, the Satellite Food Service Worker will give the child a reminder slip and stamp the child's hand with the Food Services reminder stamp. After one day of meal charges, an alternate meal will be given until the account is funded or the student brings cash to pay for the meal. Continue to give the child a reminder slip and stamp the student's hand with the Food Services reminder stamp. Do not include the alternate meal as a reimbursable meal. Instead enter in POS as an "Alternate Meal". We cannot claim an alternate meal for reimbursement on the National School Lunch Program. Once a week, the Satellite Food Service Worker will send negative balance letters to students via the classroom teachers. San Juan Unified School District currently serves 49,564 school children.

Fresno Unified School District

<https://www.fresnou.org/dept/foodservices>

Food Services Department offers all meals at no charge to all students regardless of income levels, a policy change that reduces burdens for both families and school administrators and helps ensure that all students receive nutritious meals. This practice further supports the district's efforts to eliminate all barriers to student learning, and helps ensure students are not hungry at school

while they are trying to learn. The change is the result of the district implementing the Community Eligibility Provision, an option available to schools under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Meal applications are no longer required.

San Diego Unified School District

<https://www.sandiegounified.org/CEP>

“Students gain access to free meals, and with all students being able to eat at no cost there is no stigma attached to eating school breakfast and lunch. Also, since school food professionals no longer need to track free, reduced price or paid meals, the meal service process will be streamlined – meaning students will spend less time in cashier lines and more time eating nutritious meals so that they are fueled and ready to learn. Parents no longer have to worry about household applications or lunch accounts, meaning less paperwork. Parents can also avoid the morning rush to make breakfast at home or pack a lunch since they know their students have access to nutritious meals at school. Administrators have less paperwork, reducing administrative costs and opening up more time to focus on feeding students. Offering meals at no charge to all students means that schools no longer have to go about collecting unpaid meal fees from families. Removing this dynamic between families and schools allows school nutrition staff to focus on preparing and serving healthy meals to children and eliminates a significant financial burden for school districts and families.” San Diego Unified School District currently serves 129,380 school children.

San Francisco Unified School District

<http://www.sfusd.edu/en/nutrition-school-meals/whats-new.html>

Students at 54 SFUSD schools can eat breakfast and lunch at no charge. During the 2016-17 school year, 54 schools will participate as Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) sites. Students at these schools are able to eat one breakfast and one lunch each day at no charge, regardless of individual eligibility for school meals. Students attending CEP schools will fill out a Confidential Family Survey in place of the annual Meal Application. Surveys are distributed through each school.

Long Beach Unified School District

http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/Departments/Nutrition_Services/meal_payment.cfm

The Nutrition Services Branch has extended credit up to \$10 for [non-reduced priced] students in elementary and K-8 schools. Credit will not be extended to middle and high school students; middle and high school students who have not been approved for free or reduced-price meals must have meal payments to receive their meals. Parents who receive notices of overdrawn cafeteria accounts are asked to supply the cafeteria with funds in the amount to cover the overdrawn balance. They are encouraged to add prepayment funds to

ensure that their students may continue to receive full meals. A child, whose account will exceed a negative balance of \$10 with the next purchase, will be given a fruit. Long Beach Unified School District currently serves 77,812 school children.

Santa Ana Unified School District

<http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=2111071947262188&page=prepaidacct>

We are pleased to inform you that our schools will be implementing a new provision available to schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs called the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). All SAUSD students eat free of charge for breakfast and lunch.

San Bernardino City Unified School District

<http://www.sbcusd.com/index.aspx?NID=8803>

If a student does not have money on their account, a maximum of three meals may be charged to the account. If an account reaches the maximum charge limit, the student will be served an alternative meal. Repayment of the meal charges is the responsibility of the parent/guardian of the student. If the district has the correct contact information, the household will be notified by phone weekly of the negative account balance.

Oakland Unified School District

<http://www.ousdwellness.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Nutrition-Admin-Regs.pdf>

At some schools with a large percentage of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch, OUSD is able to provide free meals to all students through the Universal Meals Program. OUSD will endeavor to expand the Universal Meals Program where financially feasible

Sacramento City Unified School District

Grades k-6 & K- 8 – Charge Limit The Nutrition Services Department will establish credit accounts for all student s who pay full price for meals at K-6 and K-8 schools. Parents will be encouraged to place pre-payments on their student's account. The Nutrition Services Department will extend up to three days of credit (three days each for both breakfast and lunch) for a student whose account balance is below the cost of three meals. The Nutrition Services Department will promptly notify parents of the negative balance on their student's account and make the principal aware so that he or she may provide the family with information about the free and reduced price meal program. Middle & High School- No Charges The Nutrition Services Department will establish credit accounts for all students who pay full price for meals at middle and high schools. Parents will be encouraged to place pre-payments on their student's account. Students at these grade levels will be made aware of their

account balances on a daily basis and credit will not be extended. Any student who does not have a meal or money for a meal will be given fruit and milk and the parents shall be notified.

Fontana Unified School District

http://www.fusd.net/departments/Business/Food/Free_and_Reduced.stm

In addition, 22 school sites in the Fontana Unified School District participate in a special program called Provision 2. Provision 2 sites feed all students enrolled at the site breakfast and lunch at no cost. The following sites are those who have qualified this year to be part of the Provision 2 program. We also have 17 schools that are new to the Provision 2 program for the 2015-16 school year. Since this is a base year a lunch application is need from each household in order to qualify for the program.

Poway Unified School District

Emergency Meal Service: The Board of Education acknowledges that on occasion, students may forget or lose meal money. In such cases, the child's statement of need shall be accepted and food will be made available based upon on a site administrative decision. Annually, the principal, or designee, in cooperation with a Food and Nutrition representative, shall develop procedures to provide meals to students without lunch money.

Fremont Unified School District

http://district.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/fremontusd/files/Fremont_Payment_Policy_082016.pdf

Charging Policy Your child's meal account must maintain a positive balance. In an emergency situation, the Child Nutrition Department may allow, only elementary students, to charge meals on accounts up to \$7.00. If the account reaches the maximum negative limit, please be certain that your child brings a meal to school until the balance is paid. Please clear any outstanding balances by using one of the options detailed above. Parent/Guardians will be notified by phone, email, and in writing, when the account requires funds. Secondary students are not allowed to charge and carry a negative balance on their accounts.

Moreno Valley Unified School District

http://district.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/morenovalleyusd/files/MEAL_CHARACTERIZATION_PROCEDURE_9-7-16.pdf

If an elementary and middle school student's account is short of money and he/she does not bring a lunch, a complete meal will be provided up to three times on credit. An alternative meal of fruit, vegetable and milk will be provided to a student should the student have lost or forgotten his/her lunch and exceeded chargeable meals (AP NO.3542.42). A request for payment will be sent home. Meals or credit will be deducted first upon payment received for

prepaid meals. The Parent/Guardian is responsible for payment of all charged meals regardless of subsequent change in meal status (free or reduced). Money for charged meals is due and payable upon notification. Charges may be paid at the school cafeteria.

Twin Rivers School District

<http://www.twinriversusd.org/depts/nutrition>

NO-CHARGE POLICY - Due to the high number of meal charges that have gone unpaid, we regret to inform our families that we can no longer allow students to charge meals. We realize there are times when lunch money is forgotten. To ensure your student will not go hungry, we will have alternative meals available in the cafeteria.

Lodi Unified School District

http://district.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/lodiUSD/files/documents/payments_15-16_eng.pdf

Our department is committed to providing meals to students that choose to participate in our meal programs but also feel very strongly that there is a responsibility for all financial obligations to the lunch program be satisfied in a timely manner. There will be no charging of lunches allowed at any elementary, middle or high schools. With the exception of students who are eligible to receive meals at no cost, students shall pay on a per-meal basis or submit payments in advance. As a courtesy, Nutrition Services will accommodate for delays in payment and under individual circumstances, etc. This exception will allow your student to charge a maximum of three (3) lunches not including a la carte before receiving a courtesy meal.

Chula Vista School District

<https://www.cvesd.org/district/parents/sitepages/schoolmenus.aspx#.WTb42OvyUM9>

Eligible students may receive free or reduced meals at no cost for lunch and free or reduced meals at no cost for breakfast based on income and household size. To decrease the economic burden of those families that qualify for the reduced price meals, our District is choosing to pick up the cost of all meals. If you think you may qualify, please see the CNS Quick Links titled, "Meal Application Information."

Glendale Unified School District

https://www.gusd.net/cms/lib/CA01000648/Centricity/Shared/AR_BP_FOLDER/AR-3551-FoodSvcOpsCafeFund.pdf

Payments for Meals With the exception of students who are eligible to receive meals at no cost, students may pay on a per-meal basis or may submit payments in advance. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain an account indicating payments received from each student for the purchase of

school meals. At the beginning of the school year, parents/guardians shall be notified of the District's meal payment policies and encouraged to prepay for meals whenever possible. Students and their parents/guardians shall be notified whenever their account has a zero balance. Elementary school students may charge a maximum of \$40.00. Once, this maximum is reached, a nutritionally adequate alternate meal consisting of a sandwich, fruit and/or vegetable, and milk will be provided until the student's account becomes current. Secondary school students may charge a maximum of \$2.60. No alternate meal will be provided once the maximum charge limit is reached. In cases of repeated nonpayment by a student, the Superintendent or designee may contact parents/guardians to discuss the reasons for the nonpayment. The Superintendent or designee may evaluate individual circumstances to determine if the student's parents/guardians need assistance completing an application for free or reduced-price meals or need referral to social services. In order to avoid potential misuse of a student's food service account by someone other than the student in whose name the account has been established, the Superintendent or designee shall verify a student's identity when setting up the account and when charging any meal to the account. The Superintendent or designee shall investigate any claim that a bill does not belong to a student or is inaccurate, shall not require a student to pay a bill that appears to be the result of identity theft, and shall open a new account with a new account number for a student who appears to be the subject of identity theft.

Rialto School District

http://kec.rialto.k12.ca.us/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1379933478392

Students who come to school without a meal or meal money will be given a meal and the appropriate meal cost will be charged to their account. Students will be allowed to charge up to six meals before receiving an alternate meal of peanut butter sandwich, fruit and milk. The cost of alternative meals is the same as a regular meal. Parents/Guardians will be notified of the amount of money owed for charged meals.

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified

http://district.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/placentiayorbalindausd/files/PYLUS_D_Meal_Charge_Policy.pdf

Students are allowed to charge up to the price of two (2) lunch meals into a negative balance. Nutrition Services staff will inform students at the point of sale when the balance on their account approaches zero to remind students they need to bring money to avoid a negative balance. The student will receive a reminder notification to take home for each meal that put students in a negative balance. Once the threshold for negative balance has been reached, an alternate meal will be served in place of the item for the day on the menu. (An Alternate meal will consist of a cheese sandwich on whole grain bread, student choice of fruit &/or vegetable portion and 1% low-fat white milk.)

Parents will be notified of student charges at a minimum of weekly by sending notification to parent via the student backpack. Email & Phone call home via the "parent call system" when student carries a negative balance equal or greater than .50 cents. Procedures for collection of funds It is the intent that collection of meal charges be a collaborative effort with Nutrition Services, office staff, and site administration. Elementary cafeteria food service workers will identify students who have reached the charge limit by printing letters to households of negative balances through the automated point of service terminal and send home notifications by printing notifications and distributing to teachers. Teachers will send the notifications home with the student via the backpack. Nutrition Services will send automated notifications via email and phone message to all households through the parent notification system. Messages will be sent twice a week to notify families of the negative balance. Nutrition Services will print a usage report of alternate meals for each school site. This will allow Nutrition Services to identify students that may need additional resources to complete meal applications.

Chaffee School District

Lunch is offered to ALL students regardless of the FREE, ("NO COST REDUCED") or PAID (2.75) status.

Tustin Unified School District

<http://tustin.healtheliving.net/what-we-do/meal-payments/>

We don't want to see any child go hungry! If your child forgets their money this is what we will do: Negative balance letters are sent home with students every week. Elementary students can charge meals until a payment is made and middle/high school students can charge up to \$20.00. Families are responsible for negative meal charges. If a child goes over the charging limit, the child is offered – free of charge – fruit, vegetables and milk

Torrance Unified School District

<http://tusdfoodservice.org/index.php?sid=2402100126178594&page=prepaidacc>

Meal Charge Policy: The district allows elementary school students to charge up to negative \$12 on their student accounts. If the students have reached this charge limit, they are given a snack consisting of crackers, a milk and fruit/veggies. Middle and high school students are not able to carry a negative balance. We will provide a snack consisting of crackers, a milk and fruit/veggies when a middle or high school student reaches a \$0 balance. Torrance Unified School District currently serves 23,885 school children.

Hayward Unified School District

<http://haywardusd-ca.schoolloop.com/file/1289141219536/1383981958576/8421785469816087491.pdf>

-Students in K-6 th grade are allowed to charge meals. This charge appears as a negative balance on the child's account. The POS will process the meal to be claimed on the day served. The Food Service Worker will contact the parent directly for collection of payment. If collection attempts are futile the HUSD general fund reimburses Food Services for the negative balances.

Murrieta Valley Unified School District

<http://murrietaschoolnutrition.com/index.php?sid=2110111645366853&page=prepaidacct>

In the event a child forgets his/her lunch money, he/she will be allowed to charge up to two meals. After two charges, the computer system will not allow further meals to be charged against a child's account. Students will be offered something to eat or the opportunity to call home. This is an uncomfortable situation for your child and for our staff as well. Please make sure that your child comes to school prepared. Please deposit money into the account as soon as possible to avoid putting your child in an uncomfortable situation.

Downey Unified School District

<http://www.dusd.net/nutritionservices/students-without-money-policy/>

Elementary and Middle Schools: Child's account will be debited up to a maximum of <\$8.75> (5 days elementary lunch equivalent), <\$7.50> middle school lunch, and the child will be allowed to eat. A daily note will be placed in the teacher's box, and a phone call will be placed to the residence if possible. Once the student surpasses the <\$8.75> debit and has received at least two phone calls, then he/she will receive the following one alternate meal.

NOTE: The principal can intervene and submit a meal application with a supporting letter if there is apparent need and no parental cooperation. Food service staff will notify school office if they suspect a child needs principal intervention. High Schools: No charging to student's account is allowed. If a child continually shows up for lunch without money, the principal will be notified for possible intervention. Promotion by school sites to encourage pre-payments by cash, check, and/or credit card via online option will reduce these situations.

Hemet Unified School District

<https://1.files.edl.io/cqHKV2JONloz4dm5fPkPKQaOayi5mQrvqFM2QJPLVITW3SGN.pdf>

Procedures for prepaid students, students without a prepaid account, new students, and transferred students: All paying students are eligible to establish a prepay account. When a paid student's account gets low (computer notifies manager) a note will be given to the student to take home to inform the parent of the low account balance. Our automated phone system will also make calls every day to the parent for low or negative accounts. If a paid student's account runs out they will be allowed to charge the equivalent of (3) three lunch meals. Once a paid student has charged three meals they will not be

allowed to charge a fourth time and will be given a “mini meal” consisting of a carton of milk and a fruit. This applies whether at breakfast or lunch meal service. The child is then to be directed to go to the office and call home. It is our intention to do everything possible to prevent paid students from running out of money.

Carlsbad Unified School District

<https://cusd->

[ca.schoolloop.com/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1368783465777](https://cusd-ca.schoolloop.com/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1368783465777)

“Elementary Students who pay the full price for meals may charge meals only up to \$9.00 if he/she forgets lunch or money to buy lunch. After the charge limit is reached these are the options for food for [non-reduced price] students: A cold sandwich and white milk will be given to the student and \$1.25 will be charged to their account. A choice of a string cheese or a piece of fruit with a white milk and \$.60 will be charged to the account. Middle Schools Students will be offered a string cheese or a piece of fruit with a white milk and charged \$.60. High Schools: No charging is allowed at the high school level. Nutrition Services is not able to absorb unpaid negative balances in our budget. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that they provide their child with money to buy lunch. We cannot be responsible for covering meals to students who routinely do not have money to buy lunch. The parent will be notified that the child is being sent to school without provisions for eating to determine how to rectify the problem. Parents are responsible for reimbursing the cafeteria for all charged meals.” Carlsbad Unified School District currently serves 11,077 school children.

Oceanside Unified School District

<http://www.osite.k12.ca.us/mealapplications>

“If your child is approved for Free or Reduced Meals, your child can eat both Breakfast and Lunch on campus...FREE!” There is no information listed on Oceanside Unified's website concerning the unpaid school meal debt for non-reduced price* students who fail to bring their school lunch money consistently. Oceanside Unified School district currently serves 21,024 school children. Oceanside Unified School District currently serves 21,024 school children.

Santa Clara Unified School District

<http://scusdnutrition.net/?page=main>

“All students who qualify for free or reduced price meals can eat at no cost.” There is no information listed on Santa Clara Unified's website concerning the unpaid school meal debt for non-reduced price students who fail to bring their school lunch money consistently. Santa Clara Unified School district currently serves 15,388 school children.

East Side Union School District

“Please note that a bank fee of \$40.00 may be charged to your child's account for non-sufficient funds.” There is no information listed on East Side Union’s website concerning the unpaid school meal debt for non-reduced price students who fail to bring their school lunch money consistently. East Side Union High School District currently serves 26,684 school children.

Palo Alto Unified School District

<https://www.pausd.org/student-services/meal-plans>

“While schools are not obligated to provide meals to children eligible for [non-reduced] priced meals, our District offers meal charges. Elementary students can charge up to \$36.25 and secondary students can charge up to \$7.50. When a student’s account has reached its credit limit, only fruit and milk will be provided until full payment is received. We do not know which students do not have permission to purchase or charge school meals. If you do not want your students to purchase or charge school meals, please discuss that in advance with them.” Palo Alto Unified School District currently serves 12,485 school children.

San Mateo-Foster City Unified School District

<http://www.smfcsd.net/en/nutrition-and-school-meals/breakfast-and-lunch-info.html>

“The San Mateo-Foster City school District does not charge a fee for households that qualify for reduced-price meal benefits. Elementary school student’s accounts are allowed to accumulate an unpaid balance of up to one week’s worth of meals, parents/guardians shall be notified in writing or phone that payment is due. Middle school student accounts will not be allowed to accumulate an unpaid balance. In cases of repeated nonpayment by a student, the Superintendent or designee may contact parents/guardians to discuss the reasons for the nonpayment. The Superintendent or designee may evaluate individual circumstances to determine if the student’s parents/guardians need assistance completing an application for free or reduced-price meals or need referral to social services.” San Mateo-Foster City Unified School District currently serves 11,977 school children.

Yuba City Unified School District

<http://www.ycusd.k12.ca.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=2124&pageId=80538>

“The Student Nutrition Department will extend credit to any elementary student without lunch or without lunch money for up to three meals. The following procedure will apply to all students: First, a meal reminder notice will be sent home with the student when his/her account balance has three lunches remaining. If funds are not received and the student account has no money the student will be asked to go to the school office to call his/her parent for direction. The Cafeteria Staff/Manager in charge will mail a follow-up notice to the parent informing them of account balance and district charge policy. The

student will be able to charge a meal for up to three days. If no funds are received in the three-day period the student will receive an alternate meal upon request. The Cafeteria Staff/Manager or Principal will call the parent advising them that they must send money or a meal with their child. At all Middle Schools and High Schools: Students at these grade levels are made aware of their account balances daily. Thus, no student charges will be allowed. Any student who has no money or meal will be offered an alternate meal. The Cafeteria Staff/Manager or Principal will call the parent advising them that they must send money or a meal with their child. At all Grade Levels: Parents of students who are out of money often will be given information about applying for free and reduced priced meals. Yuba City Unified School District currently serves 13,374 school children.

Chico Unified School District

http://www.chicousd.org/documents/Policy_and_Procedure/Series_3000/BP%203555%20Nutrition%20Program%20Compliance.pdf

"The district shall not deny any individual the benefits or service of any nutrition program or discriminate against him/her on any basis prohibited by law." We are uncertain about what this policy means for students with unpaid school meal debt. Chico Unified School District currently serves 13,849 school children.

ABC Unified School District

http://abcafe.us/schools/ausd_0410131519043624/otherdocs/Negative_Account_Balance_Policy_Effective_3-1-17.pdf

If your child is on Paid Meals: Your child will be extended credit up to five (5) lunches. After your child has reached the five lunch limit, he/she will be sent to the main office to contact you. It will be your responsibility to provide your own food OR send money with your child to pay for his/her meal on a daily basis until the negative account balance is paid off. Please note that we will NOT extend credit beyond the five (5) lunches to your child and allow his/her account to become more negative. Each school is encouraged to partner with the PTA or other school organization to establish a fund to pay for students who forget or lose their money. If your child qualifies for Free OR Reduced Price Meals: Your child will continue to receive meals. However, the negative account balance must be paid off as soon as possible.

San Marcos Unified School District

http://www.smusd.org/cms/lib3/CA01000805/Centricity/Domain/18/Information_on_Free_Pilot_Reduced_Paid_Price_Meals_EngSpan_comb.pdf

ONE DAY MEAL PASS (Charge Policy) San Marcos Unified School District has a LIMITED charge policy. If a student arrives at school without money, they are allowed up to one day breakfast and lunch charge. Charges are not allowed for a la carte items. ALTERNATE MEAL If your child arrives at school without money for lunch and has reached the charge limit, he/she will be provided an

alternate meal (such as a cheese sandwich, fruits, vegetables and milk). No alternate meal will be provided for breakfast. To prevent your child from having to receive an alternate meal, please ensure that you send money for your student's meals each day, or prepay for the meals in advance.

Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

<http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=1608122023268521&page=menus>

Meal Charge Information: Elementary students may charge up to \$10.50 and Middle & High School students may charge up to \$12.75 for meals. Once the charge limit is reached the students must bring money to receive a full meal. Elementary students will be offered an "Oops Meal" consisting of a string cheese, fruit, and milk once they have reached the charge limit.

Pasadena Unified School District

<https://www.pusd.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=1478&ModuleInstanceID=6805&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=9636&PageID=3633>

How the Process Works: If students exhaust their meal account, there is a grace period during which the student can charge meals to his or her account. Elementary and middle school students may charge up to three meals. In the event a student reaches the maximum charge limit on their meal account, at the beginning of the lunch line the student will be provided a courtesy meal that meets the same nutrition requirements as all other meals offered. If a student has already selected a reimbursable meal by the time he or she reaches the cashier, food service personnel allows the student to keep the tray.

Napa Valley Unified School District

http://www.nvusd.k12.ca.us/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1466066394067

NEGATIVE BALANCE POLICIES

In an effort to clear all negative balances within student meal accounts, NVUSD and the Food Service office have put in place the following policies:

- Every student attending NVUSD is given an account. If you, as the parent/guardian, do not want your child to have access to this account, you must call the Food Service office at 253-3541 and request a freeze be put on the account. By requesting a freeze, your child may not charge any item to their meal account but can always purchase a meal with cash. This freeze will remain in effect until a call is received by parent/guardian requesting the freeze be lifted.
- Each student who has a negative balance and has not set up a payment arrangement with the Food Service office will receive a yellow negative balance notice from the Food Service employee at your child's school, a letter from the Food Service office, and an automated phone call reminding

them that their child has a negative balance that needs to be paid. Students who carry a negative balance of \$13.00 or more will be given an alternate meal which consists of a dinner roll, cheese, fruit/veggie and milk.

- If a student has a negative balance of \$25.00 or more, the meal account will automatically be frozen to prevent any further accumulation of debt. The student meal account will remain frozen until the balance is paid in full. If necessary, you may set up payment arrangements by contacting the Food Service office at 253-3541.
- If a parent calls the Food Service office with a negative balance dispute the account will automatically be frozen until further evaluation of the account is completed or account is paid in full.

Baldwin Park Unified School District

<http://www.bpusdfoodandnutritionservices.com/index.php?sid=1473538572290>

Please Note: Students are allowed to charge up to \$20.00, once this limit has been met, they will be offered an alternate meal consisting of fruit, vegetables and milk. This is intended to curb their appetite until they get home and allow them to stay focused for the remainder of the school day. If your child receives the alternate meal, one of our office staff will call you to inform you and discuss alternative options. Although we would like to notify you the first day this happens, it may take a few days for us to contact you.

Panama-Buena Vista Union School District

<http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=2910082300216698>

The district's charge policy is "Students who charge a meal will be required to repay the charge the following day."

Santa Maria-Bonita School District

<http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?page=univfeed&sid=2607111925168433>

Each student enrolled in our schools will receive a free breakfast and lunch daily! All students will have access to healthy meals while at school. Good nutrition helps to promote better academic performance. The health and nutrition of our children continues to be a top priority.

Burbank Unified School District

<http://busdfoodservices.com/index.php?sid=1101131625567654&page=prepaidacct>

Meal Charge Policy: The district does not extend credit for student meals. As a courtesy, the district will provide an emergency meal to students who find themselves without funds at meal time. Emergency meal policy: If your child does not have sufficient funds for breakfast or lunch, s/he will be provided an

Emergency Meal. This meal consists of: a tuna cup, crackers, fruit cup, and white milk.

Central Unified School District

<http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=2504082056393926>

Charge Policy: There is a \$5.00 Maximum Allowable Charge on Student Meal Accounts. If a student reaches their limit, an alternate entree will be served. Jr. & High School students may not charge items sold at the snack bar. Meals eaten prior to free or reduced application approval are the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Santa Barbara Unified School District

<https://www.sbunified.org/departments/business-services/food-services/free-and-reduced-price-meal-program/>

It is the goal of the Santa Barbara Unified School District Food Service Department to ensure that all students are receiving proper nutrition each school day. Breakfast and lunch are prepared and made available to all students daily in each school's cafeteria. Breakfast is FREE for all students. For lunch, depending on the qualification of the submitted application, students are either full-price, reduced or free. The full-price plan signifies that the student does not qualify for free or reduced and is required to purchase lunch. A-la-carte items are also available but are not part of the free or reduced cost and all students must pay full price. Free lunches are at no charge and reduced cost is \$.40 per day. If a parent has not submitted an application and their child is without the funds necessary to purchase food in the cafeteria, the cafeteria manager will allow that student to obtain a meal but will put the student's cafeteria account into the negative. Parents are responsible to pay this negative balance. Parents are also responsible for any negative balance on their child's account prior to the qualification of their application as Free or Reduced.

Pleasanton Unified School District

http://district.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/pleasantonusd/files/CNS_Pricing.pdf

Negative Account Balances: K-12 - Parents have the ability to set low balance warnings for their online payment accounts. • K-5 – Students will be allowed to purchase a meal if their account has a negative balance. When a negative balance of \$20.00 is reached, they will be given a sandwich, fruit, and milk at no charge until balance is made positive. Students will be made aware of negative balances over \$20.00 via discrete verbal reminders and letters for Wednesday envelopes (placed in teacher mailbox on Tuesday by cafe manager). Email notifications of negative meal account balances will also be sent to parents weekly. • 6-8 – Students will be allowed to purchase a meal if their account has a negative balance. When a negative balance of \$15.00 is reached, they will

be given a sandwich, fruit, and milk at no charge until balance is made positive. Students will be made aware of negative balances over \$15.00 via discrete verbal reminders. Students with a negative balance will not be allowed to charge snack or beverage items. Students exceeding the negative balance threshold during a transaction will be allowed to complete the entire transaction and not asked to return the meal. Students may resume food purchases as soon as online account is positive (up to 48 hours after online deposit) or with cash. Email notifications of negative meal account balances will also be sent to parents weekly.

- 9-12 – Students will be allowed to purchase a meal if their account has a negative balance. When a negative balance of \$10.00 is reached, they will be given a sandwich, fruit, and milk at no charge until balance is made positive. Students will be made aware of negative balances over \$10.00 via discrete verbal reminders. Students with a negative balance will not be allowed to charge snack or beverage items. Students exceeding the negative balance threshold during a transaction will be allowed to complete the entire transaction and not asked to return the meal. Students may resume food purchases as soon as online account is positive (up to 48 hours after online deposit) or with cash. Email notifications of negative meal account balances will also be sent to parents weekly.
- Students eligible for free or reduced meals that have a negative balance on their account must have cash in order to purchase a second entrée, snacks, and/or beverages.

Fullerton Joint Union High School

<http://www.fjuhsdfoodserves.org/index.php?sid=2011151757336454&page=menus>

Lunch is offered to ALL students regardless of the FREE/REDUCED (no cost) or PAID (3.75) status.

Porterville Unified School District

<http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=2108072301275991&page=menus>

The CEP program will provide a healthy breakfast and lunch each school day at NO CHARGE for ALL students enrolled in PUSD during the 2016-2017 School Year. This program does not include second meals and ala carte purchases, but these are available for an additional cost.

Etiwanda Elementary School District

<http://www.esdchildnutrition.com/index.php?sid=1504131902247613&page=menus>

LUNCH LOAN POLICY: Elementary - A child can charge his/her lunch no more than 3 times. After 3 charges, the child will be provided a salad, fruit and drink. A child will be able to do this only 2 times. Until lunch loans have been repaid,

please provide lunch from home. A child is reminded when he/she is down to his/her last lunch. Consider using EZSchoolPay to track your child's lunch balance and make payments to their account. Intermediate - Intermediate students are not permitted to charge.

West Covina Unified School District

<http://wcusdnutrition.org/>

Parents of Graduating Seniors! - All negative balances must be paid.

Inglewood Unified School District

<http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=0107101918317031>

Most of our schools in the Inglewood Unified School District have been designated Provision 2 schools. Special Assistance Provision 2 is an alternative to standard methods of counting and claiming meals for reimbursement used in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program. (SBP) In the first year or Base Year of Provision 2, applications are distributed to all enrolled students and collected by the Food Services Department in the school food authority (SFA). All students are fed lunch and breakfast at no charge. An SFA establishes percentages for numbers of free, reduced price and paid students, by campus, by month, for lunch and for breakfast, in the first or Base Year of Provision 2. In subsequent years, only total meal counts are taken for reimbursable meals served. The Base Year percentages for free, reduced price and paid students for each campus, for each month, for lunch and breakfast are multiplied times the corresponding total monthly counts of reimbursable meals served, for each campus, for each month, for lunch and breakfast. This calculation will be the basis for reimbursement claims filed for a period of three years after the Base Year of Provision 2.

Rocklin Unified School District

<http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=2710081939036719&page=prepaidacct>

When enrolled in the district all students are given a lunch account which is accessed by the student telling the cashier their teacher's name and their name. Student ID pictures in the Nutrition Services software computer are a 3rd means of identification. Students who qualify for the Free or Reduced Lunch Program follow the same procedure so there is no overt identification. Lunches are served on a cash or prepaid basis and parent/guardians may prepay for any number of lunches in advance in the front office daily. In the event of forgotten lunch money, students may charge a lunch to their account but payment to bring the account current is expected directly. When the account becomes \$11 overdrawn a student will only be given a courtesy meal consisting of crackers and a piece of whole fruit until the account is paid and prepayment funds are put on. A notice will be sent home with the student when there are 2 lunches left, 1 lunch left or they are out of money or overdrawn on their

account. An automatic dialing system will also call home when a student's lunch account is overdrawn. Student Accounts and Payment Methods (Middle and High School): No charging of meals or a la carte items is allowed at the secondary level. Parents may place a limit on the amount of a la carte sales a student may purchase.

Evergreen School District

http://www.eesd.org/uploaded/departments/cns/Important_Note_-_Combined_File.pdf

The Evergreen Child Nutrition Services Department takes pride in serving nutritious meals daily to our students. We are firm believers that hungry students can't learn. Under no circumstances do we want a child to go without lunch. We understand that parents are busy and may occasionally forget to pack a lunch or send in money, however the number of students with a negative balance has grown significantly over the past couple of years. As you know, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to provide students with lunch or a means to pay for meals. Beginning May 29, 2017 there will be no extension of credit for Breakfast or Lunch through the last day of school. Your child will need to bring cash, check or use the credit balance on their lunch account. This will hopefully cut down on the amount of money owed at the end of the school year. Also, if your student has an outstanding balance please send in your payment before Friday, May 26, 2017 to ensure that proper credit is applied to your student's account.

Alum Rock Union Elementary School District

<http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=2904102043473906&page=menus>

2016-2017 School Year- Alum Rock Union Elementary School District will continue to provide Breakfast and Lunch at "no cost" to all students including DCP, KIPP Heartwood and KIPP-Prize.

Menifee Union Elementary School District

<http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=1710072139044844&page=prepaidacct>

Elementary school cafeterias may send a reminder slip home with your student. This is an indication that the child's account balance is low or in the negative. *There is an automated system that makes calls on negative balances once an account goes below -\$2.00, Sunday & Wednesday nights.

Upland Unified School District

<http://uplandusdcafes.com/index.php?sid=1002110008508094&page=menus>

All students at Upland Elementary School will receive a breakfast and lunch at no cost under Provision 2 program. We look forward to a rewarding and beneficial school year as we link nutrition to your child's education.

Lucia Mar Unified School District

<http://www.luciamarschools.org/food-services/>

Students will only be allowed to charge 4 meals, after which they will be offered an alternate meal until their account is brought current. Please call us at the number listed below if you have any questions or concerns. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to continuing to serve your children.

Berkeley Unified School District

<http://www.berkeleyschools.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Lunch-Charge-Policy-2016-2017.pdf>

Elementary and Middle School "Paid" students may charge meals during the first ten days of school: August 30 through Friday September 9. On Monday September 12th students will be required to provide payment for their meals in order to obtain a hot meal. Going forward only elementary school students will be permitted to charge up to three hot meals before being offered the "Alternative Meal" instead (students are charged for the "Alternative Meal" as this qualifies as a reimbursable meal at a cost to the department. *) Middle School Students and High School students may not charge for hot meals; payment is due at the point of service. *Alternative Meal includes: All you can eat Salad Bar: eggs, cottage cheese, fresh vegetables, croutons, and fresh fruit; Organic Valley Milk; or, Soup.

Milpitas Unified

[http://district.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/milpitasusd/files/21-Charge_Procedures_\(1\).pdf](http://district.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/milpitasusd/files/21-Charge_Procedures_(1).pdf)

Elementary School: 1. If an elementary student forgets their lunch money, they will be given a lunch and the meal will be charged to their account. 2. If a student has 5 outstanding lunch charges or their lunch account has reached the credit limit of \$13.75 they will not be allowed to charge another meal. They will be offered graham crackers, milk, fruit and vegetables. 3. Parents are notified of their child's negative balance through letters that are sent home every two weeks for students who have an outstanding negative balance that exceeds \$ 2.75. 4. If a student has reached the charge limit of 5 lunches or \$13.75 and continues to come to school without lunch or lunch money the SNS satellite kitchen operator will let the principal know the names of those students. SNS suggests that the principal look into the family circumstances of these children to see why the parents continue to send their child to school without a lunch or lunch money. If the family is experiencing financial hardship, they should be encouraged to complete an application for free or reduced price school meals. 5. SNS services will encourage parents to take advantage of the online prepayment system, which helps to alleviate the problem of forgotten lunch money and provides parents the ability to view their child's lunch transactions and balances online at their convenience. You can also schedule automatic payments, create a low balance email alert, and make payments

using their Mobile App. Please go to www.myschoolbucks.com to start taking advantage of these great tools. Secondary School: Students at the secondary level are not allowed to charge meals.

Merced Union High School District

<http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=2202112123061727>

Meal charges are the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian. Meal charges can be avoided by making pre-payments to the student account online (myschoolbucks.com, above), or by providing cash or check payment at the school or Nutrition Services Office.

Student account bills will be sent to households monthly. Unpaid meal charges will be considered a student 'obligation'.

Brentwood Union Elementary School District

<http://www.brentwood.k12.ca.us/menus>

- Please pre pay money to your child's lunch account or bring money daily to purchase meals in the cafeteria.
- Please Clear up any outstanding balances due.
- No charging allowed May - June. - Student can go to school office to call home to add money or be given an alternative meal- milk, crackers & fruit/Veggie.

East Whittier City Elementary School District

<https://1.cdn.edl.io/il2bBteWwWUYSdWCBUxvrUOESSRpTbKfLMtykw4ImO26EnOr.pdf>

The following procedure should be followed for students who have a negative balance.

Students who are new or have no money are to be fed a full meal for the first two (2) days and recorded as paid meals on the register. 1. First Day a) Feed student a full meal. b) Inform student that they owe \$2.25. c) Send first notice home (Reminder - Negative Balance Notice) and Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application. d) NO future a la carte sales until negative balance is paid. (Suggest a lunch meal) 2. Second Day a) Feed student a full meal. b) Inform student that they owe \$4.50. c) Send second notice (Reminder - Negative Balance Notice). 3. Third Day a) Feed student an "Alternate Meal" **see below. b) Inform student that they owe \$6.75. c) Inform student that they will receive an "Alternate Meal" until payment is made (ring as paid meal on register). d) Send third notice home (Reminder - Negative Balance Notice). e) Report student to Nutrition Services Department via email. 4. Negative Balance Paid Student Only: a) Student with Negative Balance may not purchase any a la carte items. b) Student with Negative Balance must pay the full meal price if they wish to have the meal listed on the menu. NEW If student only has partial payment amount (\$0.75, \$1.00, etc.), this amount will be added to the account and an "Alternate

meal" will be provided until full balance is paid. c) Must send out Reminder - Negative Balance Notice as listed above.

Free or Reduced Student with Negative Balances: a) Will always be offered a regular meal b) Cannot purchase a la carte items until negative balance is paid. c) Must send out Reminder - Negative Balance Notice as listed above.

**An "Alternate Meal" Consists of: Breakfast: Cheerios, Fruit of the Day and Milk (Chocolate or White) Lunch: Cold Turkey Wrap, Vegetable of the Day, Fruit of the Day and Milk (Chocolate or White)

Marysville Joint Unified School District

<http://www.mjusdnutrition.com/index.php?page=custpage&pid=483&sid=2507121650061993>

We are pleased to inform you that our schools will be implementing a new provision available to schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs called the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

Beaumont Unified School District

<http://beaumontcns.us/index.php?sid=2901082346168303&page=prepaidacct>

Elementary students who do not bring money for meals may borrow for only 2 times and "may" receive an alternate meal until there is money in their account. Balance due notes are sent home with students. Secondary students without money receive an alternate meal until there is money in their account. Returned checks will be charged a \$10.00 returned check fee.

Tulare City School District

<http://nutritionservices.tcsdk8.org/index.php?sid=1804120333596781&page=prepaidacct>

No Charging will be allowed.

The Tulare City School District has a no charge policy, which means that meals must be paid in advance for students. Whenever a student's account has money-owing parents/guardians will be notified when their account is approaching a zero balance. Whenever a student's account has an unpaid balance parent/guardians shall be notified in writing, or by phone, that full payment is due immediately. Any account with an outstanding balance of \$50 or more will be turned over to a collection agency. For further information please call (559) 687-1029.

Westminster Unified School District

http://district.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/westminstersd/files/UNPAID_MEAL_CHARGES.pdf

If a student forgets or does not have enough money for a meal, they will be given a meal and that meal will be charged to their account. Meals at school may be charged on account up to \$20.00. The following steps will be taken to make parents aware of their child's meal account status: 1. Students may only

charge reimbursable meals, and no student with a negative account balance may charge to their account extra or a-la-carte items (such as individual milk or juice purchases) 2. Students will be alerted verbally by the Food Service Assistant when their meal account balance is getting low and/or incurs a negative balance. 3. Each week an automated phone call will be sent home to those households whose meal accounts have a negative balance. 4. In addition to the phone calls, written notification will be sent home to those households whose accounts have a negative balance greater than or equal to \$10.00. 5. Once their account has incurred a negative balance that is greater than \$20.00, students will no longer be given the regular menu item for lunch until this balance is paid in full. In lieu of the regular lunch meal, students will be given: Cheese Sandwich Choice of ½ cup fruit or ½ cup vegetable at salad bar Choice of Juice Choice of Milk. Parents are encouraged to use www.myschoolbucks.com which may take 24 to 48 hours to process or write a check and deposit it in the pre-payment drop box using a pre-paid envelope to ensure that the payment is applied to their child's account. If a household is unable to pay for their child's meal, they are strongly encouraged to apply for meals at no cost. Applications are accepted at any time throughout the year. Applications may take up to 10 school days to process and households will still be held accountable for any charges incurred until the application is approved. Paper applications are available in the school office, or households may apply online at www.wsdnutrition.com. For questions, please call 714-893-3865

Lincoln Unified School District

<http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=0705122152323618>

Child Nutrition Services is excited to again be providing delicious and nutritious FREE MEALS to ALL individuals 18 years old and under who wish to participate.

Greenfield Union School District

http://www.greenfield.k12.ca.us/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1351443379976

Nutrition Services provide breakfast, lunch, dinner and after school snacks at all District schools. We strive to provide high quality meals and to ensure that nutritious food choices are available to all students.

Nutrition Services currently provides all meals at no cost to all students under Provision 2 program.

Alisal Union School District

<http://alisalfoodservices.org/index.php?page=communityeligibility&sid=0103162040317924>

We are pleased to inform you that our schools will be implementing a new provision available to schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs called the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

Endnotes

- ⁱ Hrynkiw, Ivana. (2016). "I need lunch Money," Alabama School Stamps on Child's Arm. AL.com. Retrieved from: http://www.al.com/news/birmingham/index.ssf/2016/06/gardendale_elementary_student.html
- ⁱⁱ Meal Fee Request for Information: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/10/16/2014-24575/request-for-information-unpaid-meal-charges> Responses/Comments <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketBrowser;rpp=100;so=DESC;sb=docId;po=0;dct=PS;D=FNS-2014-0039>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies - No later than July 1, 2017, all SFAs operating NSLP and/or SBP must have a written and clearly communicated meal charge policy in order to ensure a consistent and transparent approach to this issue. State can develop a state level policy; if not, then LEAs must develop individual local policies. Policies developed at the SFA level must be provided to the State agency during the Administrative Review. <http://www.ode.state.or.us/wma/nutrition/snp/memos/sp46-2016.pdf>
Unpaid Meal Charges: Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cn/SP47-2016os.pdf>
- ^{iv} California Department of Education (2016). Free and Reduced-Price Data for California Schools. Annual Statewide Free and Reduced Meal Program (FRMP) Data.
- ^v SP 45-2012: Preventing Overt Identification of Children Certified for Free or Reduced Price School Meals, 2012, <http://www.fns.usda.gov/preventing-overt-identification-children-certified-free-or-reduced-price-school-meals>.
- ^{vi} California Code of Education Section 49557
- ^{vii} A federal bill was attempted in 2010, HR5167 (Rep. Keith Ellison, D-MI) but was not passed and has not been renewed in this congress: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/5167/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22%5C%22stigma%5C%22+ellison%22%5D%7D&resultIndex=1>
- ^{viii} Meal Fee Request for Information: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/10/16/2014-24575/request-for-information-unpaid-meal-charges> Responses/Comments: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketBrowser;rpp=100;so=DESC;sb=docId;po=0;dct=PS;D=FNS-2014-0039>