



MEAL CHARGE POLICY - SCHOOL YEAR 2020-21

Did you know that Child Nutrition Services (CNS) uses a special revenue fund that strives to not receive General Fund support from the District? We must balance our budget through meal sales, snack sales and state/federal reimbursements. Coronado Unified School District has a meal system which has been adopted at all our schools. The system goals are to:

- Treat all students with dignity and respect
- Maintain a positive experience for your child during meal service
- Establish practices that are age appropriate and
- Promote parent responsibility for meal payments and self-responsibility of the student.

The Elementary School price is \$3.25 and the Middle/High School price is \$3.75 per paid meal. The reduced price is \$.40, for those families that qualify. Our department prides itself on having better quality ingredients by reducing the amount of by products and fillers in our food. We also partner with a farm to school program to bring fresh/locally available produce to our café. In addition, we have increased the variety of foods available to our students by serving more made-from scratch options daily.

Students at all grade levels can purchase a second meal if they are still hungry after their first meal. The first meal will be purchased based on the status of the student on the meal program: \$3.25 or \$3.75 for paid, \$.40 for reduced, or free. The second meal can only be purchased at the regular price of \$3.25 or \$3.75 for all students regardless of their eligibility on the meal program. If the student has a negative balance, a second meal purchase will be denied. In addition, a la carte sales at all grade levels will be denied if the student has no money or a negative balance. If you do not want to allow your student to purchase a second meal or a la carte snacks, please contact the CNS Department and the limit will be added to their account.

Payment in advance for meals enables the district to achieve the above goals. The following steps are taken so you know when money is needed on your student's account:

1. Parents/Guardians are expected to keep track of their child's account. Each day, as a courtesy, the CNS Department will send an automated message to the registered parent/guardian when the child's balance is $-\$.01$ or more. Please avoid this by ensuring the account does not go negative.
2. Phone calls will be made to the parent/guardian of the student when the meal account has reached $-\$50$ or more.

Payments may be made by cash or check in the "CNS Deposit" box at each of our school offices. In the event of a returned check due to insufficient funds, a \$15 fee will be charged to the meal account. For your convenience, credit card charges can be made online by logging on to www.ezschoolpay.com and setting up an account. You can view your child's account balance anytime and receive reminder emails. In addition, those who have a smart phone can download the EZSchoolPay app to make payments and check balances for your child's meal account even easier. **Due to the current situation of COVID-19, we are taking precautions to ensure**

contactless transactions. We will no longer be accepting cash or checks in person at the time of transaction. Students must use their CUSD meal account for all purchases.

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, please complete a meal application online at <https://secure.ezmealapp.com/ApplicationScreen.aspx> or in the school office. This link is also available on the Child Nutrition website at www.coronadousd.net for easier access. All meals purchased prior to the benefits issuance date will be charged at full price and will need to be paid by the Parent/Guardian.

Regardless of payment or account balance, we will feed each student who comes through the cafeteria line to eat. A student whose parent or guardian has unpaid meal charges is not to be shamed, treated differently, or denied a reimbursable meal of the student's choice because of the fact that the student's parent or guardian has unpaid meal fees, and shall ensure that the student is not shamed or treated differently from other students. In addition, no action will be taken against the student in order to collect meal debt. No student will be overtly identified as receiving free or reduced-price meals or as having delinquent debt.

When a student becomes unenrolled from the District and have a positive balance left on their account, the CNS Department or acting parties will contact the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will have the option to: transfer the money to a sibling, donate the money to the needy students in the district, or to request a refund. In the event the parent/guardian cannot be reached, after three years' time, the money will be turned over to the state collection account.

Please assist us in making the meal experience pleasant every day by ensuring your child has adequate funds available. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Charity Campbell, MS, RD, SNS
Director, Child Nutrition Services
619-522-8907 x2085

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