



MEAL CHARGE POLICY - SCHOOL YEAR 2018-19

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 are allowed to 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, all a la carte sales at Middle/High School will be denied if the student has a negative balance. If you do not want to allow your student to purchase a second meal, please contact the CNS Department and the request will be recorded on 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. Regardless of payment or account balance, we will feed each student who comes through the cafeteria line to eat.
2. Parents/Guardians are expected to keep track of their child's account. Each day, as a courtesy, the CNS Department will send an automated email 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.
3. There will be no alternate meal given at the preschool or elementary school level for those students who have a negative balance. However, at the middle and high school level an alternate meal will be offered. This will happen when no payment has been made and the account has accrued 5 meal charges ($-\$18.75$). This will not affect those students that have qualified to receive free or reduced-price meals on the school lunch program. The alternate meal will be of the same nutritional quality as the meals offered to other students and will be similar in nature as

to not single out any one student who is receiving it. In addition, the meal will comply with the USDA regulations under the National School Lunch Program for reimbursable meals.

4. If no payment has been made, when the account is -\$50, a phone call will be made to the parents/guardians of the student(s) to either collect payment or place the parent/guardian on a payment plan to be paid over time.

5. If no payment has been made, when the account is -\$100, the CNS Department will send the parent/guardian to a collection agency to retrieve the student meal account debt.

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 ezschoolpay.com and setting up an account. You can also view your child's account balance anytime and receive reminder emails by going to <http://www.ezschoolpay.com>. 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.

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, please complete a meal application online at <https://ezmealapp.com> or in the school office. 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.

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 Johnson, MS, RD, CLE
Director, Child Nutrition Services
619-522-8907 x2085