



## MEAL CHARGE POLICY - SCHOOL YEAR 2019-20

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. Regardless of payment or account balance, we will feed each student who comes through the cafeteria line to eat.
3. There will be no alternate meal given at the preschool or elementary school level for those students who have a negative balance under \$100. However, once the negative balance amount exceeds \$100, the student will receive an alternate meal until the negative balance is paid or a payment plan is set up between the parent and the Director of Child Nutrition Services Department. 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. At the middle and high school level an alternate meal will be offered. This will happen when no payment has been made and has a negative balance of \$20.00. 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.

5. If no payment has been made, when the account is -\$150, 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 [www.ezschoolpay.com](http://www.ezschoolpay.com) and setting up an account. You can also 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.

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](http://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.

When a student becomes unenrolled from the District and they 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  
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