

DOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT	POLICY CODE: EFD
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MEAL CHARGING POLICY

It is the responsibility of students, guardians, or parents of students, to ensure that their child's lunch account is adequately funded or that the child has a daily cash payment if they intend to participate in the National School Breakfast or Lunch Program.

The District will provide access to applications for Free and Reduced Price meals. Application forms will be sent home with all students at the beginning of each school year, posted on the District's website and available from each school's main office. Applications are accepted and processed throughout the school year.

The parent or guardian of each student must receive and acknowledge receipt of the policy/procedure. The Food Service Department will notify students verbally in all schools when their account reaches a balance of \$10.00 or less so their account can be replenished. The District's Business Office will notify students' parents or guardians if their child's account goes into a negative balance by sending home a monthly letter noting their child's negative balance.

If the account is not replenished after written notification, a regular meal will be provided to all students regardless of their account balance at the time of service. The student's account will be charged for the meal. All students will have access to a healthy school lunch. No student will be subject to different treatment from the standard school lunch meal or school cafeteria procedures. The District may claim the meal as a reimbursable meal through the National School Lunch Program as all students will have access to all 5 food components and which meet the meal pattern regulations. During this time, students will not be permitted to make a la carte purchases on account.

The federal program may not incur debt and food service debt must be recovered annually. Any student debt at the end of each school year must be transferred from the food service account to the school's general fund and at which time will become debt belonging to the school district. At the end of each fiscal year, the District's general fund shall to the Food Service account an amount equal to the total of outstanding student accounts receivable as of June 30th. The District will continue to attempt to collect the debt from the various households and any payment received will be returned to the general fund.

At the end of the fiscal year, unpaid student accounts with an excessive deficit may, upon the decision of the Superintendent of Schools, be assigned to a collection agency.

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The Department of Education or the State Board of Education, upon request of the local school board, may provide communication assistance to school districts and parents of school children regarding the school meal payment policy.