

DRAFT UPDATE – NEW

4:130-E

Operational Services

Exhibit - Free and Reduced-Price Food Services; Meal Charge Notifications

On District letterhead, website, in student handbook, newsletters, bulletins, and/or calendars

Date:

To: Students, Parents/Guardians, and Staff

Re: Eligibility and Meal Charge Notifications

The following notification is provided at the beginning of each school year as federally required notification regarding eligibility requirements and the application process for the free and reduced-price food services that are listed in Board policy 4:130, *Free and Reduced-Price Food Services* and 4:140, *Waiver of Student Fees*. For more information, see www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/unpaid-meal-charges, and/or contact the Building Principal or designee.

Free and Reduced-Price Food Services Eligibility

When students are unable to pay for their meal services, meal charges will apply per a student's eligibility category and will be processed by the District accordingly.

A student's eligibility for free and reduced-price food services shall be determined by the income eligibility guidelines, family-size income standards, set annually by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and distributed by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Meal Charges for Meals Provided by the District

The Building Principal and District staff will work jointly to prevent meal charges from accumulating. Every effort to collect all funds due to the District will be made on a regular basis and before the end of the school year. Contact your Building Principal or designee about whether your charges may be carried over at the end of the school year, i.e., beyond June 30th.

Unpaid meal charges are considered delinquent debt when payment is overdue as defined by Board policy 4:45, *Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery*. The District will make reasonable efforts to collect charges classified as delinquent debt.

When a student's funds are low or there is a negative balance, reminders will be provided to the staff, students, and their parent(s)/guardian(s) at regular intervals during the school year. If a parent/guardian regularly fails to provide meal money and does not qualify for free meal benefits, the Building Principal or designee, will direct the next course of action. Continual failure to provide meal money may require the District to notify the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and/or take legal steps to recover the unpaid meal charges.

LEGAL REF.: Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-296).
7 C.F.R. §245.5.
23 Ill.Admin.Code Part 305, School Food Service.

DATED:

Commented [APowell1]:

This new Board exhibit is created to remind administrators that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires school food authorities participating in the USDA Food and Nutrition Service's National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program to institute and clearly communicate a *meal charge policy*, which would include, if applicable, the availability of alternate meals.

This was publicized recently in a March 2017 Illinois State Board of Education *Superintendent's Newsletter* in a section titled **Unpaid Meal Charges Policies – Due by July 1, 2017. This requirement does not require a formally-adopted policy by the Board,** but rather a meal charge process, method, or procedure on how meal charges are managed in the districts. Students, parents/guardians, and district staff must all be informed of the meal charge process.

Districts will likely want to replace the text in this exhibit with their own meal charge methods if they do not already publicize them.

For more information, see the Issue 94 Update Memo under **Federal Regulatory Updates**.

Issue 94, March 2017