

Belton School District #124
August 2011

To: Parents and Students

From: Kirby Hall, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Support Services

Re: **Charge policies pertaining to food service purchases in 2011-2012**

Background

The Belton School District #124, in partnership with Sodexo, is pleased to provide breakfast and lunch options for students and staff members. This program is designed to be a service that is self-sustaining. This means that the costs charged for food items needs to pay for the food, personnel costs, and other fees associated with bringing the food services to you. Over time, students and staff members have amassed significant charges. **In an attempt to bring our food services account back into balance and encourage people to be responsible consumers, we are reinstating our no charge/limited charge policy on products provided by our food services program. The details differ by classifications of consumers.** The details of the program are stated below.

How the no charge/limited charge policy works

Payment methods for food service products. Food items are to be paid by cash, check or from funds already deposited in meal accounts. Deposits can be made through the District website (<http://www.beltonschools.org>). Go to the website. Under the Quick Links section on the website is the link to MealpayPlus. This is where you can make a contribution to an account. **A la carte items may not be charged (cost must be covered by funds in person's account, or by cash or check).**

Adults are not permitted to charge.

Secondary students (grades 9 – 12) are not permitted to charge.

Middle School students (grades 7 – 8) may charge up to \$5.00 for reimbursable meals. Whenever a charge is made, the parents/guardians will be called to notify them of the charge. In this call, we will remind parents/guardians of the five-dollar limit and indicate that once the limit has been reached no further charging will be permitted.

Early Childhood and Elementary students (pre-K – 6) may charge up to \$15.00 for reimbursable meals. Once that limit is reached, the District will provide a commodity sandwich and milk at lunch or an appropriate commodity meal and milk for breakfast, without charge, for up to five days. After receiving five days of commodity meals during the school year, no food service items will be provided without payment at the time of service.

People at the charge limit may pay cash for food items. If you already owe as much as your child's limited amount permits, you will not be permitted any further charge until your account drops below the limit.

If you do not want your child to charge, you may contact the school's food service cashier to place a no charge order on his/her account.

Students eligible for free meals

Students who have been approved for free meals may always receive full breakfasts and lunches without charge. But no a la carte items will be provided without payment if the charge limits for the child's grade level have been reached.

Students eligible for reduced-price meals

Students who have been approved for reduced-price meals and have reached the charge limits will be denied meals unless cash is presented for the portion owed by the student.

If you believe your family is eligible for free or reduced-price meals and you are not currently receiving this benefit, please contact Diane Huckshorn (348-1184), Food Services Secretary. Mrs. Huckshorn is responsible for approving the applications for free or reduced-price meals.

For any other questions about this policy, please contact Kirby Hall, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Support Services (348-1553). This policy is referenced briefly on page 7 in the 2010-11 District Calendar that was mailed to your home this summer.