

# Shasta Union High School District Nutrition Services Department

## Meal Charging Policy Notice

The Shasta Union High School District does not encourage students to "charge" for their school lunch or breakfast meals. Charging of meals does not apply to students who qualify for free breakfast and lunch meals of course as their meals are served at no costs to those students.

For students who qualify as "full pay" their breakfasts are only \$2.00 and lunch is only \$3.50. Students who qualify as "reduced" pay only .30 cents for breakfast and .40 cents for lunch.

The best way to insure that your student continues to receive our outstanding breakfasts and lunches every day without interruption is to prepay for meals in advance. The most convenient way to do this is to prepay for meals in advance online with our EZPAY system. You can reach that link here: <https://www.ezschooldpay.com/Login.aspx>.

Other ways that your student may prepay for meals is by bringing cash or check to any one of our School Nutrition Employees working one of the food service lines in the Food Court at your students school. Every student in our district has their own individual meal account through our Etrition Software program.

All prepayments (online, cash or check) are entered into your students account. Each time that your student purchases a meal or any ala carte snack foods, the Etrition system automatically withdraws the designated amount from your students prepaid meal account balance. In those cases where your students account does not have enough funds to cover the cost of a breakfast or lunch and they desire to have either, we will allow them to charge up to \$5.50.

We do not allow any charging however for ala carte/snack food items.

Shasta Union High School District has a charge policy that a student's paid meal account *should not exceed a negative balance of -\$5.50.* \$5.50 is of course the total of one paid (\$2.00) breakfast and one paid (\$3.50) lunch. When a student's meal account is getting low (\$5.00 or less) we do our best to warn them and let them know that they need to bring in additional funds to keep their meal account in balance. Most of the time this works out just fine.

There are times however, where for whatever reason students do not bring in additional monies yet still want to continue receiving breakfasts and lunch. In those cases, as stated above, we will allow them to "charge" up to \$5.50, although we HIGHLY DISCOURAGE this practice. We of course never want to deny a full pay student a meal, but in some cases, with paid students who exceed the \$5.50 negative balance limit, we may have no other alternative.

Please note that we **NEVER** deny a reduced student a meal, no matter what their negative balance is. However, if your student does qualify for reduced price meals you still have a responsibility to keep their meal account fully paid at all times and we respectfully ask you to honor this request.

Once per week (usually every Tuesday) the Nutrition Services department sends out email notices of all student meal accounts that have a negative balance. In some cases when a students has a negative meal balance and we are having difficulty collecting upon it we will place a phone call to the home of the students to notify parents or guardians of the situation.

For some families/students in order to avoid any meal charging issues in the first place, the best thing to do is to be sure that you have a completed a free/reduced price meal application for the current school year. This must be done every year at the beginning of the school year and preferably BEFORE the start of the school year. The most convenient way to do this is through our online application process: <https://secure.ezmealapp.com/ApplicationScreen.aspx>.

Free/reduced price meal applications can also be picked up from your schools front office. Thank you for your cooperation in these matters and thank you for participating in our Nutrition Services program. We strive to serve your students the best, most nutritious, delicious and appealing breakfast and lunch at the best price possible.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at [fschafer@suhsd.net](mailto:fschafer@suhsd.net) or 530-245-2628.

Fred Schafer, MS, SNS Director of Nutrition Services, Shasta Union High School District