

**Tri Creek School Corporation
Student Nutrition and Food Services**

ELEMENTARY STUDENT LUNCH/MEAL ACCOUNTS PROCEDURE

Charge Procedures – 2022-2023

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) requires school food authorities to establish written administrative guidelines and procedures for meal charges, delinquent debt and refunds. Tri Creek School Corporation will adhere to the following meal charge procedure.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to keep a positive meal balance in their student(s) account or to pack a lunch from home for their student(s). The Food Service Department is self-supporting which means that no monies from the general fund help to operate the Food Service Department. Payments must be made promptly to ensure that the department can continue to operate in a fiscally responsible manner.

If you have applied for free or reduced price meals and have a “Pending” application, it is your responsibility to pay for all school meals until you receive an Approval Letter. If you are approved for reduced price meals, the cost of breakfast is \$.30 and the cost of lunch is \$.40.

ELEMENTARY CHARGE GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES:

Meal charges are strongly discouraged, but we understand that an occasional emergency occurs. We care for the well-being of your student and therefore, no student will be denied a meal and no lunch tray will ever be taken from a student. These charge limits allow a parent/guardian adequate time to pay their student(s) negative meal charges.

- **Full Paid Elementary Students (students that do not qualify for free or reduced meals)** may not charge more than **\$10.50 (3 full days of “Lunch and Breakfast Meals”)** in negative meal charges.
- **Reduced Elementary Students (students that have qualified for reduced meals)** may not charge more than **\$2.10 (3 full days of “Lunch and Breakfast Meals”)** in negative meal charges.
- Ala carte items are not allowed to be charged or purchased if a student has a negative balance of any amount, including milk.
- Milk is considered an ala carte item. A student that chooses to bring a sack lunch from home may purchase a carton of milk. If there are no funds in the students’ meal account, they may charge ONE carton of milk. After one milk charge, students will be offered a cup for the drinking fountain.

*Negative Balance Notifications are sent automatically twice a week to the household’s Skyward email address. On Mondays, Negative Balance Slips are sent home with students if their MealTime balance is still negative. **Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to monitor their student(s) meal account balance.** The parent may monitor their student’s meal purchases and/or account balances, free of charge, by setting up an account at www.mymealtime.com. **This website offers a parent the opportunity to set up a “low balance notification” email reminder for their convenience.***

- **ALL negative** meal balances must be **paid in full** by the end of the school year or before the student leaves the district. In the event the parent(s)/guardian continues to maintain negative balances and the outstanding balance is not paid, the Food Service Department may choose to use other means (collections, prosecutors' office, small claims, etc.) to collect this debt.
- If a student repeatedly comes to school with no lunch and no money provided by a parent/guardian, food service employees will report this to the building principal as this may be a sign of abuse or neglect and the proper authorities will be contacted.
- If you feel you may qualify for meal assistance, applications can be found on the school website and at any Tri-Creek School Office. Quick and convenient online applications can be found on the school website. **Any charges incurred before the approval of meal assistance must be paid in full by the parent/guardian as applications cannot be applied retroactively.*
- All positive meal account balances will follow the student throughout their school career until they leave the district permanently. Parents must request a refund for their students' positive meal account balance by contacting the food service department during the current school year or before July 31st of the school year just ending or forfeit their refund. Previous school year meal account balances will not be refunded. It is the responsibility of the parents to know their students' meal account balance and request a refund of their account.
- All adult customers may not charge more than \$10.25 in a combination of ala carte and meal sales. Cashiers will make every effort to notify teachers of their meal account balance. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the adult to know the balance of their school meal account. All negative meal charges must be paid in full by the end of the school year. All negative and positive balances will follow the adult during their career with Tri Creek Schools. Adults must request a refund for any positive balance that is in their meal account. Adults that have left the district must request a refund by July 31st of the school year just ending or forfeit the refund. Previous school year meal account balances will not be refunded.
- All unclaimed positive balances from students and/or adults that have left the district will be transferred to the **Feed Them Forward Fund**. This donation fund is used to settle delinquent meal accounts.