

## **SCHOOL MEAL CHARGES (To be implemented October 1, 2008)**

*Policy Code:* **6220-R**

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Rockingham County Schools recognizes that it is to the benefit of students that they be well-nourished to achieve maximum learning. However, families that are not approved free/reduced meals must be financially responsible for meals for their students provided by the cafeteria. The school nutrition program is a fiscally independent operation governed by local, state and federal policies. The Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) A-87 Circular prohibits the use of federal funds to offset meal charges to students and adults. Writing off outstanding charges is considered a bad debt which is not allowed by the program. LEA (non-SFS) funds must be used to pay school nutrition for uncollected charges.

The following guidelines are to be followed for meal charges:

### **PreK-12: BREAKFAST**

No charges are allowed. If the principal wants a student that is not approved for a free meal to have breakfast when the student does not have funds to pay for the meal, he or she must give his or her approval. Students without funds will be referred to their teachers and/or referred to the office.

### **PreK-5: LUNCH**

Students in PreK-5 will be allowed to charge five lunches. After the third charge a letter will be generated for the parent informing him/her that his/her child owes the cafeteria. The parent is to be informed that if he/she does not pay the amount due within thirty days, then social services may be informed as this is a form of neglect. Every effort is to be made to have the parent(s) complete a free/reduced application. In some cases it may be necessary for the principal to complete a hardship application. It will be a decision of the principal to continue to provide meals after the 5<sup>th</sup> charge. School Nutrition will not provide meals if the principal instructs the staff not to do so.

### **Grades 6-12: LUNCH**

No charges are allowed without approval from the principal.

### **Grades PreK-12: Supplemental Sales**

Supplemental Sales are not allowed to be charged under any circumstances.

When a principal allows a charge(s), the school is assuming financial responsibility for the meals provided. Any food that has to be thrown away because of trays taken from students that can't be recycled will have to be paid for through non-SFS funds.