

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) requires school food authorities to establish written administrative guidelines for meal charges. Penn Harris Madison School Corporation will adhere to the following meal charge guidelines:

1. Cafeteria purchases are to be prepaid before meal service begins or at the Point of Sale either by credit or debit card or EFT using the foodservice online payment system, by cash or check at the point of sale or in the individual school office.
2. A student may charge up to three (3) meals maximum (one charge per meal) as long as they establish and maintain a good credit history of making payments on their foodservice accounts.
3. A staff member may charge up to \$3.00 as long as they establish and maintain a good credit history of making payments on their foodservice accounts.
4. A student who has charged a meal may not charge or purchase "ala carte" item(s), including extra main entrees.
5. Schools may deny a meal to a student who pays reduced or full price and who does not provide the required payment for that meal following three charged meals. The student and the parent must be notified at least 24 hours in advance that future meals will be denied. The Site Leader will keep a record of notifications.
6. The Site Leader or other school personnel will coordinate communications with the parent(s)/guardian(s) to resolve the matter of unpaid charges.
7. If food and nutrition services staff suspects that a student may be abusing this policy, written notice will be provided to the parent(s)/guardian(s) that if he/she continues to abuse this policy, the privilege of charging meals may be refused.
8. The Site leader will send home or email letters at least once each week to parents of students who have low balances. The site leader will also make phone calls at least twice a week to all parents of students who have negative balances.
9. All accounts must be settled at the end of a school year. Letters will be sent home approximately five (5) days before the last day of school to students who have any negative balances. Negative balances of more than \$10.00 not paid in full thirty (30) days prior to the start of the following school year will force the District to take action to collect unpaid funds by means of collection agencies, small claims court, or any other legal method deemed necessary by the District. The United States Department of Agriculture does not allow school nutrition programs to write-off debt.
10. This information will be shared with parents on the PHM website and through the first day of school packet. It will also be shared with appropriate school staff.