

**St. Lucie Public Schools**  
**Meal Charging Policy/Procedure**

All St. Lucie Public Schools must adhere to the Meal Charging Policy set forth by USDA. No student who qualify for a free meal benefit will be denied a meal even if there are meal charges on the account. Students accounts can accrue up to \$10.00 of charges for reimbursable meals only. No ala carte items are permitted to charge. No adults are permitted to charge.

1. Students are allowed to charge up to \$10.00 for receiving a reimbursable meal. The student will be provided the same school lunch that other students are receiving.
2. Students that have accrued a negative balance will receive notification of charges through the district communication system, written notification and/or a phone call from the school. Parents will be encouraged to make a payment through either our online prepayment system or through the cafeteria.
3. Households will continue to receive notification of charges until charges are paid in full. Notifications through the district communication system will occur twice a week.
4. Up to three days of replacement meals including both breakfast and lunch, will be offered to students who have maximized their charge limit. A replacement meal for lunch consists of a cheese sandwich, vegetable, fruit and low-fat white milk which represents a regular reimbursable meal. A replacement meal for breakfast includes cereal, fruit, and white milk, which represents a reimbursable meal. The school meals program will maintain a list of students receiving or refusing a courtesy meal.
5. If a pattern of receiving replacement meals is evident, attempts will be made by the Child Nutrition Services Department to discuss the issue with the parent, and encourage them to complete a free and reduced meal application. If the practice continues and the parents are unresponsive, the Child Nutrition Services Department will initiate a plan for Student Services to contact the household to complete meal application for the student and determine if the student is known to be needy.
6. Any time there is an uncollected balance on a student's meal account, the student will be prevented from purchasing A la carte items.
7. Any unpaid balance on a student's account will be carried over from year to year.
8. The parent is responsible for the uncollected balance.