

The CLK Food Service Program is following a Negative Balance Policy, pursuant to new USDA Federal Guidelines.

Parent/Family are now strongly encouraged to make all meal payments in advance in order to avoid negative status. A family food service account is allowed to charge up to the \$10.00 "account cap". Students are not permitted to charge a la carte items if their negative balance is over the "account cap". Before reaching the "account cap", the student's parent/family will receive a daily email and/or a direct notice of their negative balance and instruction of how and where payments can be made. Immediate payment is expected

If no response or payment is received after 30 days of "account caps" reminder notice; a formal letter, email, and phone call will be directed to the parent and building principal's attention for further collection efforts.

Reminder, all accounts must be paid by the end of the school year. No charging will be permitted the last week of school.

Please note all students will be served a meal regardless of their account balance status in order to preserve the student's dignity and avoid discrimination. In addition, the CLK Food Service Lunch Shaming Policy will be strictly enforced as follows:

- a. Prohibits the requiring of students who cannot pay for a school meal or who owe a negative balance to wear a wristband or handstamp
- b. Prohibits the requiring of students who cannot pay for a school meal or who owe a negative balance to perform chores or other work to pay for school meals
- c. Prohibits the requiring of students to dispose of a meal after it has been served because the student is unable to pay for the meal or has a negative balance
- d. Prohibits the direct communication with a student about a negative balance unless your district has unsuccessfully attempted to contact the student's parent or legal guardian first through telephone, mail, and electronic mail
- e. Prohibits discussing a negative balance with a student in the presence of other students