

## Meal Charge Policy

Garden Grove Unified School District's Food Service department recognizes adequate nutrition is essential to students' mental, physical, and academic growth. All children (grades K through grade 12) participating in the national school breakfast program and the national school lunch program, whether at a free, reduced or paid rate, will receive a full reimbursable breakfast and/or lunch meal that meets USDA requirements in compliance under the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA) regardless if they do not have adequate money in their student account or in hand to cover the cost of the meal at the time of service.

If a student does not have adequate money in their student account or in hand to cover the cost of the meal at the time of service, all students will receive a full reimbursable breakfast and/or lunch meal. The food service cashier selects the "Courtesy Meal" key. Students are allowed to have up to three (3) Courtesy Meals. If students continue to not have adequate money in their account, the breakfast and/or lunch meal will be charged to the students' account accordingly. Charge meals are not allowed at the Secondary level (7-12<sup>th</sup> grade).

Students and their parents/guardians shall be notified whenever their account has a low or negative balance. Whenever a student's account has an unpaid balance of \$10 or more, parents/guardians shall be notified via School Messenger or in writing that full payment is due within ten (10) school days from the date of the notice. In cases of repeated nonpayment by a student, the Superintendent or designee may contact parents/guardians to discuss the reasons for the nonpayment. The Superintendent or designee may:

- Evaluate individual circumstances to determine if the student's parents/guardians need assistance completing an application for free or reduced-price meals
- Enter into a repayment plan with a student's parents/guardians for payment of the student's unpaid meal charge balance over a period of time. As necessary, the repayment plan may allow the unrecovered or delinquent debt to carry over into the next fiscal year.

The district's efforts to collect debt shall be consistent with district policies and procedures, California Department of Education (CDE) guidance, and 2 CFR 200.426. The district shall not spend more than the actual debt owed in efforts to recover unpaid meal charges. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records of the efforts made to collect unpaid meal charges and, if applicable, financial documentation showing when the unpaid meal balance has become an operating loss.

The [myschoolbucks.com](http://myschoolbucks.com) website is a pre-payment system whereby students' parents/guardians can pre-pay for meals. Families may check their account balance and add money electronically from a computer or mobile device using this website. Money may also be added to student accounts via cash or check at the POS at each school. Money left at the end of a school year is carried over into the next school year as delinquent debt and collection efforts continue into the new school year.