

SCHOOL MEAL CHARGES AND ACCOUNTS/INSUFFICIENT FUNDS

All students that attend Avella Area School District are provided the opportunity to purchase meals at each building cafeteria in accordance with the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

Parents/Guardians are solely responsible for providing their children with meals by purchasing a meal at school or by packing a meal from home. If for any reason a parent/guardian cannot afford to provide a meal for their child, Free and Reduced Meal benefits may be applied for by printing the application at www.avella.k12.pa.us under Cafeteria or by calling 724-356-2218 ext. 3312.

If a student loses or forgets his/her lunch money and/or has insufficient funds in his/her lunch account, he/she will be able to buy a meal on credit with certain restrictions.

Students can NEVER be denied a reimbursable meal, even if they have accrued a negative balance from other purchases in the cafeteria; however, these students can be prohibited from charging a la carte or extra items.

Parents may restrict their child's ability to charge food items or place a dollar limit on the account by contacting the Food Service Department at (724) 356-2218 ext. 3312 or by setting up those limits online at MySchoolBucks.com.

Collection of Unpaid Meal Charges

- Communications regarding collection of delinquent meal charges will be directed to parents/guardians. School staff may communicate a low balance or money owed by a student for school meals to a student in grades 9-12; such communication shall be made to the individual student in a discreet manner.
- Parents can request low balance notifications via MySchoolBucks.com.
- Parents/guardians of a child with a negative balance of \$5.00 or higher will receive a weekly phone call via the School Messenger Service.
- Students with negative balances of \$50.00 will have a letter sent to their parent/guardian from the building principal indicating that either full payment be received, or a payment plan is established with the first payment received by the district within 14 days. If no actions are taken, the negligent debt will be sent to the local Magistrate for collection, and the parent/guardian will be responsible for all court costs and fees assigned by the magistrate for the collection of monies due to the cafeteria.
- Students with negative cafeteria balances, regardless of the amount, will not be permitted to participate in sports, extracurricular activities, and if owed by a senior, march during the graduation ceremony until paid in full.
- All negative balances MUST be satisfied by the end of the school year. If not, unpaid meal charges may be carried over as a delinquent debt and collection efforts may continue into the new school year.
- Graduating Seniors will receive notification regarding any outstanding debts and remaining balance.
- Cafeteria cashiers must ensure that rosters, computer screen etc. at the point of service cannot be viewed by anyone who does not need access to the information, especially other children.