



Montesano School District Meal Charging Policy

The Montesano School District Meal Charge Policy will allow students to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the day and to minimize the identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for meals.

Every effort will be made to qualify eligible families for free or reduced-price meals. We will conduct direct certification verification at least monthly throughout the school year. This includes Basic Food, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDIPR) Migrant, Homeless, Foster, and Medicaid. The Free and Reduced-Price Meal application is a part of our annual registration/update for families. Please complete the application online as required or opt out of the application.

Communication from our school district about amounts owed for meals previously served to a student under the age of fifteen (15), will only be directed to the student's parent or guardian. Communication may be sent home with your student, or it may be sent by email or mail to the student's parent or guardian.

Students at Simpson and Beacon are allowed to charge meals if they do not have money on their account. A negative balance notice will be sent home with your student daily until the balance is again positive. You can set up the Skyward system to alert you by email when the balance falls below \$5.00. Meals that are charged will be added to the negative balance of the account.

Meals at the Jr Sr High School can be charged when no other means of payment is available. The student will be encouraged to call their parent to add money to their account via Skyward when they do not have funds to purchase a reimbursable meal. A la carte items are not allowed to be charged.

As required by the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights, students with a negative balance will not be offered an alternative meal. All students will be offered the same meal regardless of a negative balance.

When an account has a negative balance of more than \$20.00, a letter will be sent home and/or a phone call or email will be made in addition to the negative balance notices that are sent home daily. If an account has a negative balance of \$50.00 or more, the account will be referred to the business office for collection. The business office will work with families on a payment schedule to get the balance paid off while also allowing students to purchase meals. Emails and phone calls may be made on a regular basis to remind you of the negative balance.

If the negative balance is not paid off in a timely manner, the district may turn the debt over to a collection agency.

Employees of the Montesano School District are **not** allowed to charge a meal. Staff must have funds available either on their account or with them at the time of purchase.

Important Information about Meal Benefits:

How can I qualify for Free or Reduced Priced Meals?

Applications are a part of the online registration system through Skyward as well as paper copies at any of our buildings and also at the District Office. You can also qualify via Direct Certification.

Applications/Eligibility from the prior year are only valid for the first 30 school days. If a new application is not received by the 31st day, or the student is not Directly Certified, students will be charged at the full price for lunch and breakfast until a new application is approved. **You are responsible for charges made.**

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Students Eligible for Reduced-Price Meals

Lunches served to children who qualify for reduced-priced meals in Kindergarten through 3rd grade will be made available at no cost. All other students 4th through 12th grade will be charged the appropriate rate. (\$0.40 for 2019-2020)

Reimbursable Meals

Students must take all of the required components of a meal for it to be considered reimbursable and qualify under the USDA Free & Reduced Meal Program. If any of the required components are declined, the meal is considered non-reimbursable and will be charged accordingly.

Milk

If a student qualifies for Free or Reduced meals and only chooses milk, the milk is not considered reimbursable and will be charged at the current rate of 35 cents per milk. Students may purchase additional milk as long as they have money in their food service account or at the time of purchase.

Food Service Payments

Funds can be added to a student meal account by sending cash or check to the school or by using a credit or debit card online through Skyward Family Access. Card readers may soon be available at all schools to also accept credit or debit cards in person at each school.

201-2020 Meal Prices

Breakfast -

All Schools: \$2.00

Free or Reduced Eligible: Free

Lunch –

Beacon/Simpson: \$2.80

Free or Reduced Eligible Grades K-3: Free

Reduced Eligible Grades 4-6: \$.40

Jr. Sr. High School: \$3.15

Reduced Eligible: \$.40

For current menu and nutritional information, please visit: monteschools.nutrislice.com

You may direct questions regarding food service to 360-249-1642 or the district office at 360-249-3942.