



DIOCESE OF COVINGTON  
Department of Catholic Schools

## **Charging Policy of School Meals and/or Milk**

The purpose of this policy is to insure compliance with federal reporting requirements for the Child Nutrition Program and to provide oversight and accountability for the collection of outstanding student meal balances.

Federal reporting requirements do not allow the Child Nutrition Program to charge lunches. Only meals that are paid for can be reported to the Federal government for reimbursement. Students may pay for meals in advance, at the time of purchase or make electronic payments. Our charging policy at the Diocese of Covington School's is a five meal maximum, not to exceed \$15.00. Students will be served and charged for an alternate meal when they accrue an unpaid balance in excess of the dollar limit established by the Diocese. The Cafeteria Manager shall provide parents written notice when their child owes money to the school for meals.

Our school cafeterias possess computerized point of sale/cash register systems that maintain a record of all monies deposited and spent for each student and said record is available to parents at ***K12PAYMENTCENTER.COM***. Each school shall inform parents that meals can be paid for in advance and that balances may be maintained in their child's account to minimize the possibility that the child may be without meal money on any given day. If a student is without meal money on a consistent basis, the manager and/or Food Service Director will investigate the situation more closely, including contacting the parent/guardian to bring money to the school and/or encourage the parent to apply for free or reduced price meals.

This policy's provisions pertain to regular school lunch/breakfast meals only, ***no a la carte items can be charged***. Federal policy prohibits the withholding of meals from a child as a form of discipline.

Legal Reference: 7 CFR 210

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