

## SCHOOL MEAL CHARGING POLICY

The goal of the school breakfast and lunch program is to provide healthy meals for all students each day. The District's participation in the Federal USDA Child Nutrition Program does not, however, require by law that students be served a meal without payment. Nonetheless, it is not the intent of the program to deny a student a meal. However, if a student receives a meal it must be paid for. Free and Reduced Applications are always available throughout the year to help families in need.

Due to excessive charges, the Goodrich Area Schools finds it necessary to establish a written system policy for meal charges for all students.

1. All students are given a foodservice account based on their student ID number.
2. Any student that receives free or reduced lunch benefits must use a foodservice account to get those benefits.
3. Any parent that does not want a foodservice account for their student, or needs a special request (ex. No a la carte, cash only, Doctor approved food allergy) must request that in writing and send it to:  
Goodrich Area Schools  
Food Service Department  
8029 S. Gale Rd  
Goodrich, MI 48438
4. All foodservice IDs must be entered at the cash register to access the account.
5. The foodservice staff will let students know when their account balance is low.
6. Food service will send a daily notification by email on low balances. If no email on file, a printed copy will be given to the student and/or parent or guardian.
7. All students will be allowed to charge up to \$5.00 which will be applied to his/her account. If the student does not have money to pay for lunch or breakfast and has an outstanding balance exceeding \$5.00 or more, he/she will receive an alternative lunch meal of a cheese sandwich, milk, and a choice of a fresh fruit and vegetable. The cost of this meal is (\$2.50 or 0.40 for reduced) and this will be charged to the student's account. The alternate breakfast will consist of cold cereal, milk and fruit and (\$1.50 or .30cents for reduced) will be charged to the students account.
8. After the student receives 10 alternate meals, or the parent/legal guardian refuses to pay after being contacted, the district reserves the right to take steps necessary to collect charges owed. These actions could include using small claims court to collect the money owed, contacting a collection agency, and/or notifying the Department of Social Services of child neglect.
9. Goodrich Area Schools also offers an online payment program that gives parents the opportunity to pay for meals in advance through credit or debit cards and view their student's account at any time. This can be accessed at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com).
10. Seniors must pay all charges before receiving their cap and gown.
11. Parents/legal guardians who are applying for either free or reduce meals are responsible for the full lunch price of the student's meal until the free and reduced-priced meal application is approved and parent or legal guardian is notified.
12. All positive and negative balances remaining at the end of a school year will be carried into the following school year.
13. Refunds will be issued if student leaves the district, or if parent or legal guardian requests a refund.

Allowing charges to continuously accumulate can lead to tremendous deficits for the school food service program and it is unfair to the households that do pay for their meals. Therefore, the district reserves the right to revoke the charging privilege if it becomes excessively abused, and the student will have to bring their meals from home.