

### **SCHOOL MEAL CHARGES**

The Board of Education of Talbot County recognizes the importance of good nutrition and strives to take all reasonable steps to make sure students have access to school meals.

These steps include providing access to applications for Free and Reduced Meals for those families who qualify. Application forms will be sent home at the beginning of each school year, posted on the Board of Education website, and available from the building Principals' office.

All students who do not qualify for Free and Reduced Meals are expected to pay for school meals at the time of purchase. The Board of Education recognizes that there may be times when a student has forgotten their lunch money, or inadvertently failed to keep a positive balance in their account. Parents or guardians will be contacted by the school by note, e-mail, telephone call or letter when their student's account becomes depleted.

#### **1. MEAL CHARGING**

When a student's account becomes depleted, or a student has forgotten their lunch money, meal charging may be permitted as follows:

Students will be permitted to charge up to five lunches. If payment is not received for the charged lunches prior to the next lunchtime, students will be provided an alternative lunch consisting of an offering of the required food groups of grain, vegetable, protein, fruit and milk in place of the hot lunch offering of the day. The cost of the alternative meal will be added to the outstanding account balance. The parent or guardian will be contacted regarding the unpaid balance.

#### **2. ACCOUNT BALANCES**

The parent of guardian of all accounts with a depleted account will be contacted by the school by note, e-mail, telephone call or letter informing them of the amount due on the account. Payments can be made on-line or at the individual schools to bring the account current. If a family is having financial difficulty in bringing the account to a positive balance they will be assisted in applying for Free and Reduced Meals or in making acceptable payment arrangements. In addition, the Board of Education Food Service Department is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Payments can be made by mail payable to the Board of Education – Talbot County Public Schools Food Services, 12 Magnolia Street, Easton, Maryland 21601.

### **3. FREE AND REDUCED SCHOOL MEALS**

Applications for Free and Reduced School Meals can be submitted to the school counseling office at any time during the school year. School personnel are available to assist anyone in filling out the application for Free and Reduced School Meals. Any balance owed prior to being determined eligible will remain the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

### **4. ONLINE PAYMENT OPTION**

Talbot Board of Education offers parents an online payment option. The website is [myschoolbucks.com](http://myschoolbucks.com) and the information can be found on the Talbot County Public Schools website.

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