

This Policy Committee Meeting has been postponed.

1. Introductions
2. Logistics
3. 100 Series of Policies
 - A. 104 Policy - Mission Statement 2
Returned by Board from May 19, 2025 Business Meeting to determine change in verbiage recommendations.
4. 700 Series of Policies
 - The following policies have been reviewed by the Financial Advisory Council (FAC):*
 - A. 701 Policy - Establishment and Adoption of School District Budget 3
 - B. 702 Policy - Accounting 5
 - C. 706 Policy - Acceptance of Gifts 7
5. 500 Series of Policies
 - The following policies have changes required by the Minnesota Department of Education MDE:*
 - A. 533 Policy - Wellness 8
 - B. 534 Policy - School Meals 15
6. Other

Robbinsdale Area Schools
Independent School District 281
Original 1997
Revised and Approved: September 4, 2024
Revised, Reviewed: *May 2025*
Approved: (enter date here)

104 POLICY - MISSION STATEMENT

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear statement of the purpose for which the school district exists.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board believes that a mission statement should be adopted. The mission statement should be based on the beliefs and values of the community, should direct any change effort and should be the basis on which decisions are made. The school board, on behalf of and with extensive participation by the community, should develop a consensus among its members regarding the nature of the enterprise the school board governs, the purposes it serves, the constituencies it should consider, including student representation, and the results it intends to produce.

III. MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of Robbinsdale Area Schools is to inspire and educate all learners to develop their unique potential and positively contribute to their community."

IV. REVIEW

The school board will **direct the administration to conduct** a comprehensive review of the **district mission statement, vision, and values of the community every five years for strategic planning purposes. In order to be responsive to changing needs, the superintendent may request, outside of the five year period, a review of any parts of the strategic plan to ensure the document reflects the district's priorities, values and long-term goals.**

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement Goals; Striving for Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness)

Cross References: [RAS Policy 102.1 - Equity](#)

701 POLICY - ESTABLISHMENT AND ADOPTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish lines of authority and procedures for the establishment of the school district's revenue and expenditure budgets.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of the school district is to establish its revenue and expenditure budgets in accordance with the applicable provisions of law. Budget planning is an integral part of program planning so that the annual budget will effectively express and implement school board goals and the priorities of the school district.

III. Process:

~~The superintendent is directed to develop administrative procedures for Policy 407 Employee Right to Know: Exposure to Hazardous Substances to ensure compliance with state and federal laws or rules.~~

III. REQUIREMENT

- A. The superintendent or such other school official as designated by the superintendent or the school board shall each year prepare preliminary revenue and expenditure budgets for review by the school board or its designated committee or committees. The preliminary budgets shall be accompanied by such written commentary as may be necessary for them to be clearly understood by the members of the school board and the public. The school board shall review the projected revenues and expenditures for the school district for the next fiscal year and make such adjustments in the expenditure budget as necessary to carry out the education program within the revenues projected.
- B. The school district must maintain separate accounts to identify revenues and expenditures for each building. Expenditures shall be reported in compliance with Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.76.
- C. Prior to July 1 of each year, the school board shall approve and adopt its initial revenue and expenditure budgets for the next school year. The adopted expenditure budget document shall be considered the school board's expenditure authorization for that school year. No funds may be expended for any purpose in any school year prior to the adoption of the budget document which authorizes that expenditure for that year, or prior to the adoption of an amendment to that budget document by the school board to authorize that expenditure for that year.
- D. Each year, the school district shall publish its adopted revenue and expenditure budgets for the current year, the actual revenues, expenditures, and fund balances for the prior year, and the projected fund balances for the current year in the form prescribed by the

Commissioner within one week of the acceptance of the final audit by the school board, or November 30, whichever is earlier. A statement shall be included in the publication that the complete budget in detail may be inspected by any resident of the school district upon request to the superintendent. A summary of this information and the address of the school district's official website where the information can be found must be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district. At the same time as this publication, the school district shall publish the other information required by Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.10.

- E. At the public hearing on the adoption of the school district's proposed property tax levy, the school board shall review its current budget and the proposed property taxes payable in the following calendar year.
- F. The school district must also post the materials specified in Paragraph III.D. above on the school district's official website, including a link to the school district's school report card on the Minnesota Department of Education's website, and publish a summary of information and the address of the school district's website where the information can be found in a qualified newspaper of general circulation in the district.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

- A. The school board places the responsibility for administering the adopted budget with the superintendent. The superintendent may delegate duties related thereto to other school officials, but the superintendent maintains the ultimate responsibility for this function.
- B. The program-oriented budgeting system will be supported by a program-oriented accounting structure organized and operated on a fund basis as provided for in Minnesota statutes through the Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards for Minnesota School Districts (UFARS).
- C. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee is authorized to make payments of claims or salaries authorized by the adopted or amended budget prior to school board approval.
- D. Supplies and capital equipment can be ordered prior to budget adoption only by authority of the school board. If additional personnel are provided in the proposed budget, actual hiring may not occur until the budget is adopted unless otherwise approved by the school board. Other funds to be expended in a subsequent school year may not be encumbered prior to budget adoption unless specifically approved by the school board.
- E. The school district shall make such reports to the Commissioner as required relating to initial allocations of revenue, reallocations of revenue, and expenditures of funds.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 123B.10 (Publication of Financial Information)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.76 (Expenditures; Reporting)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.77 (Accounting, Budgeting, and Reporting Requirements)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 701.1 (Modification of School District Budget)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 702 (Accounting)

702 POLICY - ACCOUNTING

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to adopt the Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards for Minnesota School Districts (UFARS) provided for in guidelines adopted by the Minnesota Department of Education.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of this school district to comply with the Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards for Minnesota School Districts.

III. MAINTENANCE OF BOOKS AND ACCOUNTS

The school district shall maintain its books and records and do its accounting in compliance with the Uniform Accounting and Reporting Standards for Minnesota School Districts (UFARS) provided for in the guidelines adopted by the Minnesota Department of Education and in compliance with applicable state laws and rules relating to reporting of revenues and expenditures.

IV. PERMANENT FUND TRANSFERS

Unless otherwise authorized pursuant to ~~Minn. Stat. §~~ Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.80, as amended, or any other law, fund transfers shall be made in compliance with UFARS and permanent fund transfers shall only be made in compliance with ~~Minn. Stat. §~~ Minnesota Statutes section 123B.79, as amended, or other applicable statute.

V. REPORTING

The school board shall provide for an annual audit of the books and records of the school district to assure compliance of its records with UFARS. Each year, the school district shall also provide for the publication of the financial information specified in ~~Minn. Stat. §~~ Minnesota Statutes section 123B.10 in the manner specified therein.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 123B.02 (~~School District Powers~~ General Powers of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09 (~~School Board Powers~~ Boards of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.10 (Publication of Financial Information) Minn. Stat. § 123B.14, Subd. 7 (~~Duties of School Board Clerk~~ Officers of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.75 (Revenue; Reporting)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.76 (Expenditures; Reporting)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.77 (Accounting, Budgeting and Reporting Requirements)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.78 (Cash Flow; School District Revenues; Borrowing for
Current Operating Costs; Capital Expenditure Deficits)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.79 (Permanent Fund Transfers)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.80 (Exceptions for Permanent Fund Transfers)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 703 (Annual Audit)

DRAFT

706 POLICY - ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

[Note: The provisions of this policy substantially reflect statutory requirements.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the acceptance of gifts by the school board.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of this school district to accept gifts only in compliance with state law.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS GENERALLY

The school board may receive, for the benefit of the school district, bequests, donations or gifts for any proper purpose. The school board shall have the sole authority to determine whether any gift or any precondition, condition, or limitation on use included in a proposed gift furthers the interests of or benefits the school district and whether it should be accepted or rejected.

IV. GIFTS OF REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY

The school board may accept a gift, grant or devise of real or personal property only by the adoption of a resolution approved by two-thirds of its members. The real or personal property so accepted may not be used for religious or sectarian purposes.

[Note: This voting requirement and gift use provision is specified by ~~Minn. Stat. § Minnesota Statutes, section 465.03.~~

V. ADMINISTRATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS

If the school board agrees to accept a bequest, donation, gift, grant or device which contains preconditions, conditions or limitations on use, the school board shall administer it in accordance with those terms. Once accepted, a gift shall be the property of the school district unless otherwise provided in the agreed upon terms.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, Subd. 6 (~~Bequests, Donations, Gifts-General Powers of Independent School Boards~~)
Minn. Stat. § 465.03 (~~Gifts-Gifts to Municipalities~~)

533 POLICY - WELLNESS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth methods that promote student wellness and mental health, prevent and reduce childhood obesity, and assure that school meals and other food and beverages sold and otherwise made available on the school campus during the school day are consistent with applicable minimum local, state, and federal standards.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The school board recognizes that nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, mental well-being and other school-based activities that promote student wellness are essential components of the educational process and that good health fosters student attendance and learning.
- B. The school environment should promote students' health, well-being, and ability to learn by encouraging healthy eating and physical activity.
- C. The school district encourages the involvement of parents, students, representatives of the school food department, teachers, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the school district's wellness policy.
- D. Students need access to healthy foods and opportunities to be physically active in order to grow, learn, and thrive.
- E. All ~~enrolled District 281~~ students in ~~preK-22~~ will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.
- F. Qualified food service personnel will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students based ~~on the USDA guidelines and state regulations; with consideration of try to accommodate~~ the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning; and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.

III. WELLNESS GOALS

- A. Nutrition Promotion and Education
 - 1. The school district will encourage and support healthy eating by students and engage in nutrition promotion that is:

offered as part of a comprehensive program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;

- a. part of health education classes, as well as classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects, where appropriate; and
 - b. enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant, and includes participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, and field trips.
2. The school district will encourage all students to make age appropriate, healthy selections of foods and beverages, including those sold individually outside the reimbursable school meal programs, such as through a la carte/snack lines, vending machines, fundraising events, concession stands, and student stores.

B. Physical Activity

1. Students need opportunities for physical activity and to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior. Toward that end, health and physical education will reinforce the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle and reduce sedentary activities, such as watching television;
2. Opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated into other subject lessons, where appropriate; and
3. Classroom teachers will provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.

C. Communications with Parents

1. The school district recognizes that parents and guardians have a primary role in promoting their **student's children's** health and well-being.
2. The school district will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their **student(s) children**.
3. The school district encourages parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and refrain from including beverages and foods without nutritional value.
4. The school district will provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities and will support parents' efforts to provide their **student(s) children** with opportunities to be physically active outside of school.

IV. STANDARDS AND NUTRITION GUIDELINES

A. School Meals

1. The school district will provide healthy and safe school meal programs that comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations.
2. Food service personnel will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students.
3. Food service personnel will try to accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning.
4. Food service personnel will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.
5. Food service personnel will take every measure to ensure that student access to foods and beverages meets or exceeds all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations and that reimbursable school meals meet USDA nutrition standards.
6. Food service personnel shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local food safety and security guidelines.
7. The school district will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.
8. The school district will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks.
9. The school district will make every effort to provide students with sufficient time to eat after sitting down for school meals and will schedule meal periods at appropriate times during the school day.
10. The school district will discourage tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes unless students may eat during such activities.

B. School Food Service Program/Personnel

1. The school district shall designate an appropriate person to be responsible for the school district's food service program, whose duties shall include the creation of nutrition guidelines and procedures for the selection of foods and beverages made available on campus to ensure food and beverage choices are consistent with current USDA guidelines.
2. As part of the school district's responsibility to operate a food service program, the school district will provide continuing professional development for all food service personnel in schools.

C. School Food Service Program/Personnel

1. The school district shall designate an appropriate person to be responsible for the school district's food service program, whose duties shall include the creation of nutrition guidelines and procedures for the selection of foods and beverages made available on campus to ensure food and beverage choices are consistent with current USDA guidelines.
2. As part of the school district's responsibility to operate a food service program, the school district will provide continuing professional development for all food service personnel in schools.

D. Competitive Foods and Beverages

1. All foods and beverages sold on school grounds to students, outside of reimbursable meals, are considered "competitive foods." Competitive foods include items sold a la carte in the cafeteria, from vending machines, school stores, and for in-school fundraisers.
2. All competitive foods will meet the [USDA Smart Snacks in School](#) (Smart Snacks) nutrition standards and any applicable state nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart Snacks aim to improve student health and well-being, increase consumption of healthful foods during the school day, and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits.
3. Before and Aftercare (childcare) programs must also comply with the school district's nutrition standards unless they are reimbursable under USDA school meals program, in which case they must comply with all applicable USDA standards.

E. Other Foods and Beverages Made Available to Students

1. Student wellness will be a consideration for all foods offered, but not sold, to students on the school campus, including those foods provided through:
 - a. Celebrations and parties. The school district will provide a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas. *[Note: Healthy party ideas are available from the [USDA](#).]*
 - b. Classroom snacks brought by parents. The school district will provide to parents a list of suggested foods and beverages that meet [Smart Snacks](#) nutrition standards.
2. Rewards and incentives. Schools will not use foods or beverages as rewards for academic performance or good behavior (unless this practice is allowed by a student's individual education plan or behavior intervention plan) and will not withhold food or beverages as punishment.
3. Fundraising. The school district will make available to parents and teachers a list

of suggested healthy fundraising ideas.

F. Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools

1. School-based marketing will be consistent with nutrition education and health promotion.
2. Schools will restrict food and beverages marketing to the promotion of only those foods and beverages that meet the [Smart Snacks](#) nutrition standards.

V. WELLNESS LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

A. Wellness Coordinator

1. The superintendent will designate a school district official(s) to oversee the school district's wellness- related activities (Wellness Coordinator(s)). The Wellness Coordinator(s) will ensure that each school implements the policy. **The Nutrition Services assistant director and the Human Resources director will serve as Wellness Coordinators and be responsible for the implementation and oversight of the local school wellness policy to ensure each school's compliance with the district's wellness policy.**
2. The principal of each school, or a designated school official, will ensure compliance within the school and will report to the Wellness Coordinator regarding compliance matters upon request.

B. Public Involvement

1. The Wellness Coordinator will permit parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy.
2. The Wellness Coordinator will hold meetings, from time to time, for the purpose of discussing the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy. All meeting dates and times will be posted on the school district's website and will be open to the public.

VI. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

A. Implementation and Publication

1. After approval by the school board, the wellness policy will be implemented throughout the school district.
2. The school district will post its wellness policy on its website, to the extent it maintains a website.

B. Annual Reporting

The Wellness Coordinator will annually inform the public about the content and implementation of the wellness policy and make the policy and any updates to the policy available to the public.

C. Triennial Assessment

1. At least once every three years, the school district will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and create a report that includes the following information:
 - a. the extent to which schools under the jurisdiction of the school district are in compliance with the wellness policy;
 - b. the extent to which the school district's wellness policy compares to model local wellness policies; and
 - c. a description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the school district's wellness policy.
2. The Wellness Coordinator will be responsible for conducting the triennial assessment.
3. The triennial assessment report shall be posted on the school district's website or otherwise made available to the public.

D. Recordkeeping

1. The school district will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy. The records to be retained include, but are not limited to:
 - a. The school district's written wellness policy.
2. Documentation demonstrating compliance with community involvement requirements, including requirements to make the local school wellness policy and triennial assessments available to the public.
3. Documentation of the triennial assessment of the local school wellness policy for each school under the school district's jurisdiction efforts to review and update the wellness policy (including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the school district uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the Wellness Committee).

Legal References: **Minn. Stat. § 121A.215 (Local School District Wellness Policy; [website](#))**
42 U.S.C. § 1751 *et seq.* (Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act)
42 U.S.C. § 1758b (Local School Wellness Policy)
42 U.S.C. § 1771 *et seq.* (Child Nutrition Act of 1966)

7 U.S.C. § 5341 (Establishment of Dietary Guidelines)
7 C.F.R. § 210.10 (School Lunch Program Regulations)
7 C.F.R. § 220.8 (School Breakfast Program Regulations)

Local Resources: Minnesota Department of Education, www.education.state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Health, www.health.state.mn.us
County Health Departments
Action for Healthy Kids Minnesota, www.actionforhealthykids.org
United States Department of Agriculture, www.fns.usda.gov

Revisions: June 1, 2015
June 5, 2017

DRAFT

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 534

Orig. 2017

Revised: _____

Rev. 2023

534 SCHOOL MEALS POLICY

[Note: In 2021, the Minnesota legislature amended Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.111, ~~that now states to require~~ that Minnesota school districts that participate in the national school lunch program ~~must~~ adopt a school meals policy. In 2023, the Minnesota legislature amended the statute to create the free school meals program].

[Note: This MSBA/MASA model policy is drafted to be consistent for all grade levels. However, local school districts may vary the meal charge policy for elementary, middle, and high schools.]

[Note: School districts must follow appropriate debt collection practices when attempting to recover unpaid a la carte items or second meal charges.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students receive healthy and nutritious meals through the school district's nutrition program and that school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. The policy of the school district is to provide meals to students in a respectful manner and to maintain the dignity of students by prohibiting lunch shaming or otherwise ostracizing the student. The policy seeks to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day and minimize identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for a la carte items or second school meals as well as to maintain the financial integrity of the school nutrition program.

II. PAYMENT OF MEALS

[Note: Payment systems and procedures will likely vary from school district to school district. The school district should select one of the following options and delete the remaining options.]

A. [OPTION 1: All a la carte items or second meal purchases are to be prepaid before meal service begins. [Insert description for how families may add money to students' accounts (e.g., electronic payment options, pay at the school office, etc.).] A student who does not have sufficient funds will not be allowed to charge ~~meals or~~ a la carte items or a second meal until additional money is deposited in the student's account.]

[OPTION 2: Students have use of a meal account. When the balance reaches zero, a student may charge no more than \$[insert amount] or [insert number of meals] to this account]. When an account reaches this limit, a student shall not be allowed to charge ~~further second~~ meals or a la carte items until the negative account balance is paid. [Insert description for how families may add money to students' accounts (e.g., electronic payment options, pay at the school office, etc.).]

[OPTION 3: Insert a school district-specific process for payment of a la carte items or second meals.]

If the school district participates in the United States Department of Agriculture National School Lunch program and has an Identified Student Percentage below the federal percentage determined for all meals to be reimbursed at the free rate via the Community Eligibility Provision must participate in the free school meals program.

B. A school that participates in the United States Department of Agriculture National School Lunch program and has an Identified Student Percentage at or above the federal percentage determined for all meals to be reimbursed at the free rate must participate in the federal Community Eligibility Provision in order to participate in the free school meals program.

C. Each school that participates in the free school meals program must:

(1) participate in the United States Department of Agriculture School Breakfast Program and the United States Department of Agriculture National School Lunch Program; and

(2) provide to all students at no cost up to two federally reimbursable meals per school day, with a maximum of one free breakfast and one free lunch.

~~If the school district receives school lunch aid under Minnesota Statutes section 124D.111, it must make lunch available without charge to all participating students who qualify for free or reduced price meals regardless of account balance.~~

~~C. A student with an outstanding meal charge debt will be allowed to purchase a meal if the student pays for the meal when it is received.~~

~~D. A student who has been determined to be eligible for free and reduced price lunch always must be served a reimbursable meal even if the student has an outstanding debt.~~

~~D. Once a meal has been placed on a student's tray or otherwise served to a student, the meal may not be subsequently withdrawn from the student by the cashier or other school official, whether or not the student has an outstanding meals balance.~~

~~E. When a student has a negative account balance, the student will not be allowed to charge a snack item.~~

~~E. If a parent or guardian chooses to send in one payment that is to be divided between sibling accounts, the parent or guardian must specify how the funds are to be distributed to the students' accounts. Funds may not be transferred between sibling accounts unless written permission is received from the parent or guardian.~~

III. LOW OR NEGATIVE ACCOUNT BALANCES – NOTIFICATION

A. The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify families when meal account balances are low or fall below zero.

B. Families will be notified of an outstanding negative balance once the negative balance reaches \$*[insert amount]* or *[insert number of meals]*. Families will be notified by *[insert the method used to notify families (e.g., automated calling system, email, letters sent home)]*.

- C. Reminders for payment of outstanding student meal balances will not demean or stigmatize any student participating in the school lunch program, including, but not limited to, dumping meals, withdrawing a meal that has been served, announcing or listing students' names publicly, providing alternative meals not specifically related to dietary needs; providing nonreimbursable meals; or affixing stickers, stamps, or pins.

IV. UNPAID MEAL CHARGES

- A. The school district will make reasonable efforts to communicate with families to resolve the matter of unpaid charges. Where appropriate, families may be encouraged to apply for free or reduced-price meals for their children.
- B. The school district will make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. Unpaid meal charges are designated as delinquent debt when payment is overdue, the debt is considered collectable, and efforts are being made to collect it.
- C. Negative balances of more than \$*[insert amount]*, not paid prior to *[enter time period (e.g., end of the month, end of the semester, end of the school year)]*, will be turned over to the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection. In some instances, the school district does use a collection agency to collect unpaid school meal debts after reasonable efforts first have been made by the school district to collect the debt. Collection options may include, but are not limited to, use of collection agencies, claims in the conciliation court, or any other legal method permitted by law.
- D. The school district may not enlist the assistance of non-school district employees, such as volunteers, to engage in debt collection efforts.
- E. The school district will not impose any other restriction prohibited under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.37 due to unpaid student meal balances. The school district will not limit a student's participation in any school activities, graduation ceremonies, field trips, athletics, activity clubs, or other extracurricular activities or access to materials, technology, or other items provided to students due to an unpaid student meal balance.

V. COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

- A. This policy and any pertinent supporting information shall be provided in writing (i.e., mail, email, back-to-school packet, student handbook, etc.) to:
 - 1. all households at or before the start of each school year;
 - 2. students and families who transfer into the school district, at the time of enrollment; and
 - 3. all school district personnel who are responsible for enforcing this policy.
- B. The school district will post this policy on the school district's website, or the website of the organization where the meal is served, in addition to providing the required written notification described above.
- C. If the school district contracts with a third party for its meal services, it will provide the vendor with its school meals policy. The school district will ensure that any third-party provider with whom the school district enters into either an original or modified contract after July 1, 2021, adheres to the school district's school meals policy.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 123B.37 (Prohibited Fees)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.111 (School Meals Policies; Lunch Aid; Food Service Accounting)
42 U.S.C. § 1751 *et seq.* (Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act)
7 C.F.R. § 210 *et seq.* (School Lunch Program Regulations)
7 C.F.R. § 220.8 (School Breakfast Program Regulations)
USDA Policy Memorandum SP 46-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies (2016)
USDA Policy Memorandum SP 47-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments (2016)
USDA Policy Memorandum SP 23-2017, Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance and Q&A

Cross References: None

534 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE - UNPAID MEAL CHARGES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this administrative procedure is to ensure that students receive healthy and nutritious meals through the school district's nutrition program and that school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. The administrative procedure of the school district is to provide meals to students in a respectful manner and to maintain the dignity of students by prohibiting lunch shaming or otherwise ostracizing the student. The administrative procedure seeks to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day and minimize identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for a la carte items or second school meals as well as to maintain the financial integrity of the school nutrition program.

II. PAYMENT OF MEALS

If the school district participates in the United States Department of Agriculture National School Lunch program and has an Identified Student Percentage below the federal percentage determined for all meals to be reimbursed at the free rate via the Community Eligibility Provision must participate in the free school meals program.

A school that participates in the United States Department of Agriculture National School Lunch program and has an Identified Student Percentage at or above the federal percentage determined for all meals to be reimbursed at the free rate must participate in the federal Community Eligibility Provision in order to participate in the free school meals program.

A. Each school that participates in the free school meals program must:

- (1) participate in the United States Department of Agriculture School Breakfast Program and the United States Department of Agriculture National School Lunch Program; and
- (2) provide to all students at no cost up to two federally reimbursable meals per school day, with a maximum of one free breakfast and one free lunch.

If the school district receives school lunch aid under Minnesota Statutes section 124D.111, it must make lunch available without charge to all participating students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals regardless of account balance.

B. Once a meal has been placed on a student's tray or otherwise served to a student, the meal may not be subsequently withdrawn from the student by the cashier or other school official, whether or not the student has an outstanding meal balance.

- C. When a student has a negative account balance, the student will not be allowed to charge a snack item.
- D. If a parent or guardian chooses to send in one payment that is to be divided between sibling accounts, the parent or guardian must specify how the funds are to be distributed to the students' accounts. Funds may not be transferred between sibling accounts unless written permission is received from the parent or guardian.

III. LOW OR NEGATIVE ACCOUNT BALANCES

- A. The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify families when meal account balances are low or fall below zero.
- B. Families will be notified of an outstanding negative balance once the negative balance reaches (-\$5.00). Families will be notified by email or letters sent via USPS.
- C. Reminders for payment of outstanding student meal balances will not demean or stigmatize any student participating in the school lunch program, including, but not limited to, dumping meals, withdrawing a meal that has been served, announcing or listing students' names publicly, providing alternative meals not specifically related to dietary needs; providing non reimbursable meals; or affixing stickers, stamps, or pins.

IV. UNPAID MEAL CHARGES

- A. The school district will make reasonable efforts to communicate with families to resolve the matter of unpaid charges.
- B. The school district will make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. Unpaid meal charges are designated as delinquent debt when payment is overdue, the debt is considered collectable, and efforts are being made to collect it.
- C. The school district may not enlist the assistance of non-school district employees, such as volunteers, to engage in debt collection efforts.
- D. The school district will not use a debt collections agency to engage in debt collection efforts.
- E. The school district will not impose any other restriction prohibited under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.37 due to unpaid student meal balances. The school district will not limit a student's participation in any school activities, graduation ceremonies, field trips, athletics, activity clubs, or other extracurricular activities or access to materials, technology, or other items provided to students due to an unpaid student meal balance.

V. COMMUNICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

- A. This administrative procedure and any pertinent supporting information shall be provided in writing (i.e., mail, email, back-to-school packet, student handbook, etc.) to:

1. all households at or before the start of each school year;
 2. students and families who transfer into the school district, at the time of enrollment; and
 3. all school district personnel who are responsible for enforcing this administrative procedure.
- B. The school district will post this administrative procedure on the school district’s website, or the website of the organization where the meal is served, in addition to providing the required written notification described above.
- C. If the school district contracts with a third party for its meal services, it will provide the vendor with its school meals administrative procedure. The school district will ensure that any third-party provider with whom the school district enters into either an original or modified contract after July 1, 2021, adheres to the school district’s school meals administrative procedure.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 124d.111, Subd. 4
42 U.S.C. § 1751 *et seq.* (Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act)
Minn. Rules Parts 1205.0100-1205.2000 (Data Practices)
7 C.F.R. §210 *et seq.* (School Lunch Program Regulations)
7 C.F.R. §220.8 *et seq.* (School Breakfast Program Regulations)
USDA Policy Memorandum SP 46-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies (2016)
USDA Policy Memorandum SP 47-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments (2016)
USDA Policy Memorandum SP 23-2017, Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance and Q&A

Cross References: Wellness Policy 533