

## **Finneytown Meal Charge Procedure**

While Milford Schools Department of Nutrition Services discourages meal charges at Finneytown, we will not allow a student to go without meals during the school day without contacting the parents. When there is no money in the student's meal account and no payment is made at the time of meal service, the account becomes negative. Letters, e-mails, or phone reminders are sent to the account's registered addresses notifying the parents of the negative amount. As a special consideration for Finneytown students and their families, students will be provided with a regular meal until a negative \$5.00 balance accumulates on the meal account. After a student has reached the negative \$5.00 limit, an alternate meal will be provided at approximately half the cost of a regular meal. Students who reach a negative balance of \$15.00 and do not have money to pay for their meal will not be served. They will be sent to the office to contact their parents. Students with a negative balance will not be permitted to purchase a la carte items, including extra entrees, until the negative amount is paid in full.

Nutrition Services is self-supporting. The department itself receives no money to operate from the district's funds, tax levies, or property taxes. The school lunch program is funded only from federal reimbursement and student payments to cover operating expenses and fees. By federal law, Food Service revenues must meet or exceed expenditures. Current federal regulations require the student's school district to assume responsibility for any uncollected lunch charges. This money comes from the Finneytown District's General Fund, (state and local tax dollars).

### **Nutrition Services Department goals for meal charge procedure:**

- To treat all students with dignity in the serving line regarding meal accounts;
- To establish age appropriate policies;
- To encourage parents to assume responsibility for meal payments and to promote student self-responsibility;
- To establish consistent department procedure regarding meal charges and the collection of charges.

### **Alternative Meal Procedure**

When a student does not have money in the account or cash to pay for a lunch, and reaches a charge balance of negative \$5.00 (2 meals), the student is told privately to bring in money, pack a meal, or accept the alternate meal the following day. A letter will also be generated by the cashier and mailed to the parents, notifying them that an alternative meal will be served to the child until the balance is reconciled.

When a student receives an alternate meal, only the entrée is replaced with an alternate entrée consisting of a cheese or peanut butter sandwich. (Peanut butter is not served in elementary schools where there is a concern for peanut allergies). The student's tray looks no different than the tray of any other student participating in the school lunch program. All alternative meals may contain fruits and vegetables from the food bar, and milk in addition to the whole grain bread and cheese/peanut butter, depending on the student's selection.