

**FREE AND REDUCED PRICE FOOD SERVICES  
(INCLUDING CHARGE POLICY)**

The Easton Public Schools will take part in the National School Lunch Program and other food programs that may become available to assure that all children in the schools receive proper nourishment.

In accordance with guidelines for participation in these programs, and in accordance with the wishes of the Committee, no child who a teacher believes is improperly nourished will be denied a free lunch or other food simply because proper application has not been received from his parents or guardians.

As required by state and federal regulations, the School Committee will approve a policy statement pertaining to eligibility for free milk, free meals, and reduced price meals.

In the event that a student arrives at the register with a lunch and/or A la carte items and does not have a way to pay for the food items, the following policy will be applied.

A la Carte items may not be charged.

Students in Grades K-2 will not be subject to the charge limit; they will receive a regular lunch and accrue charges accordingly.

Grades 3-12 will be allowed to charge two lunches. After two lunches, the student will be given a free lunch that consists of a sandwich choice based on what is available, a fruit and a cup for water.

Parents will be notified of negative balances promptly. Every effort will be made to resolve any outstanding balances.

In order to be in compliance with the Federal Regulation, each school will be required to open a Purchase Order, at the beginning of each fiscal year encumbering the estimated amount of uncollected school lunch debt accrued during the school year. A forecast amount will be provided by the School Business Office. An invoice will be issued to each school in June by the food service department.

In keeping with the federal regulations, all school food authorities within the Commonwealth must resolve bad debt at the end of each school year by offsetting bad debt costs incurred by food service operations from sources outside of the non-profit school food service account (such as a general fund). Whether bad debt occurs by policy or by practice, it is not an allowable expense.

LEGAL REFS.: National School Lunch Act, as amended (42 USC 1751-1760)  
Child Nutrition Act of 1966  
The Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Cost Principles for  
State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments Regulation 2 CFR Part 225  
(formerly OMB circular A-87) provides the official federal regulations  
regarding allowable costs for National School Lunch Program Funds  
P.L. 89-642, 80 Stat. 885, as amended  
M.G.L. 15:1G; 15:1L; 69:1C; 71:72