

Meal Charge Procedure for Lyndon Institute

- I. **Purpose** - The purpose of this procedure is to establish consistent procedures for Lyndon Institute to provide meals to students who have insufficient funds in their school meal accounts and the collection of unpaid meal debt.
- II. **Meal Charge Policy for School Year 23-24** – During School Year 23-24, Lyndon Institute will be offering meals at no charge to all students under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). **This meal charge policy will remain in effect for a la carte items and second meals.**

General Statement of Procedure –

- A. Lyndon Institute recognizes proper nutrition is essential for adequate learning to occur and to establish lifelong, healthy eating habits while also working to maintain the financial integrity of the school food service program.
- B. It is the procedure of Lyndon Institute to offer high quality, healthy breakfasts and lunches that meet the federal guidelines to all students at a reasonable cost to ensure no child goes hungry.
- C. Payments to student accounts can be made via cash, check or credit card to the cashier in the dining hall, or parents can login to My SchoolBucks, www.myschoolbucks.com, to add funds directly to their student's account.
- D. Families may apply for free and reduced-price meals at any time during the school year. Meal applications are distributed to households after July 1st and prior to the first day of school, by mail. Parents are encouraged to complete and return the applications as soon as possible. In addition, applications are available at the school business office during regular business hours and online at www.lyndoninstitute.org. If household size changes or income changes, families may re-apply for meal benefits any time during the school year.
 - 1) Households who apply for free and reduced-price meal benefits are responsible for payment of all school meals and accumulated charges until approval is granted. Federal guidelines allow a maximum of 10 days to approve a new application. No child is allowed a free or reduced-price meal without an approved application or direct certification information on file. Parents will receive a notification letter of the student's eligibility showing the effective date. If a notification letter is not received within 10 days, the parent should check with the approving official at the school to see if the application has been received.
 - 2) Households who are receiving 3SquaresVT or Reach-Up benefits will receive a notification of eligibility letter based on Direct Certification from the school if the school has received information about your child(ren). If your household receives these benefits and you have not received this letter from the school, the school has not received information regarding eligibility of your child(ren), the household must contact the school immediately to provide current information.
 - 3) Free and reduced-price eligible students may receive a breakfast and a lunch each day at no charge.
 - 4) A la carte items, such as a separate carton of milk or a second entrée, may be charged to the student's account provided there are funds available.

Meal Charge Procedure –

- A. If the student account has insufficient funds to pay for breakfast and/or lunch meals, they will be provided a meal regardless of their meal account status. All negative balances must be paid prior to the end of the school year. Any remaining balances will be carried over to the next school year.
- B. Free and reduced-price eligible students will always be provided a meal regardless of unpaid student accounts.
- C. A student eligible for paid meals who has ‘cash in hand’ at the time of meal service will be provided a meal regardless of unpaid student accounts. The ‘cash in hand’ will not be applied to past due accounts.
- D. Students with funds available on their account will be allowed to charge second meals and a la carte items.
- E. Students with an overdrawn account are **not allowed** to charge second lunches or a la carte items.

Account Status Notifications –

- A. Households are encouraged to keep sufficient funds in their student’s account to cover second meals and a la carte purchases, should you wish your student to purchase these items. Lyndon Institute will notify each household of account balances by:
 - The Food Service Program will send a monthly statement to families with negative balances either by email or via the US Postal Service.
 - Families can check their account balances online through www.myschoolbucks.com.
 - Families may contact the Business Office at 802-535-3636 ext. 2512 or via email at businessoffice@lyndoninstitute.org.
 - Students may be given a verbal reminder or written notice in the food service line.

Collection of Unpaid Meal Debt –

When the student balance is (-\$25.00), the following collection activities will be followed:

- The Business Office will contact the household and request payment.
- A certified letter will be sent to the household notifying them that the debt may be turned over to a collection agency if not paid by (June 30).
- All funds owed to the food service program will be paid in full on the last day of school.
- Checks returned for non-sufficient funds will follow the school’s policy.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that

administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

email:

Program.Intake@usda.gov

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