

## **RSU 26 School Lunch Payment/Charge Policy**

Studies prove that children are more successful in school if they receive appropriate nutritional meals throughout the day. To that end, RSU 26 participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and National School Breakfast Program (NSBP), administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and overseen by the Maine Department of Education Child Nutrition Services. Proper nutrition is essential for growing bodies and developing brains. It also assists students in reaching their full academic and physical potential.

### Definitions:

“Debiting” means an expense that draws down a positive balance established in the designated school online payment system

“charging” refers to any and all forms of exchange where there is a verbal agreement for future payment of a meal after service of the meal

A. At the beginning of each school year, the RSU 26 will provide the parents/guardians of district students written information describing the district’s Food Service Program and policies. Staff and administration who are associated with enforcing this policy will also be provided a copy, and a copy will be posted on the district website.

B. The district is responsible for ordering the food and liquids served as well as maintaining accountability for related costs. For this reason, there is a cost to the student for each meal served. There is a Free and Reduced food service program (F/R FSP) for eligible students.

C. Students always have the option of bringing their own lunch.

D. Students intending to purchase a meal (breakfast or lunch) produced by the school’s kitchen staff are required to pay the established price as approved by the School Board.

E. Students can purchase their meal one of two ways: (1) with cash or (2) by debiting the individual student lunch account. Payment is due at the time of purchase.

F. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to maintain an appropriate balance in the student’s lunch account.

G. Parents/Guardians can deposit funds into the student’s lunch account in four ways:

- 1) Sending/delivering cash or checks to the student’s school administration in care of the Food Services. Checks should be made payable to RSU 26 Food Services.
- 2) Checks can be mailed to: RSU 26 Food Director, 10 Goodridge Drive, Orono ME 04473. A \$25.00 fee will be charged for returned checks.
- 3) Online deposits can be made after setting up an account at the designated school online

payment system. A link is provided on the District's web page under School Lunch Service. Instructions are provided for a parent/guardian to be able to set up and access their student's account.

- 4) Cash payments can be made at the point of sale in the cafeteria.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to keep track of their student's charges and to be in touch with the school's food service office if there is a question. Parents/guardians can monitor their student's account online by creating an account with the designated online school payment system

Adopted: 10/30/18

Revised: 10/15/19