

San Rafael City Schools

Meal Charge Standard Practice

The purpose of this Meal Charge Standard Practice is to provide a consistent process for charging meals when a student does not have money to pay for school meals. This policy applies to families who are paying full price for meals.

Preventing meal charges:

If your child does not qualify for free or reduced price meals, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure their child has sufficient funds on their account to cover all school meals and to keep abreast of their child's account. Funds can be deposited to a child's meal account:

- 1) Online using <https://family.titank12.com> (You will need your child's student ID number, ID numbers can be obtained by calling the Nutrition Services office at 415-492-3572)
- 2) At the school site (cash or check made payable to SRCS Nutrition Services)

By going to <https://family.titank12.com> you can set up and/or manage your child's meal account. Online prepayments are encouraged but, even if you do not choose to make online payments, you can still utilize the account to check the balance of your child's meal account and see on what dates your child participated in school breakfast or lunch. Online accounts also have a "low balance" or "automatic deposit at low balance" parent e-mail alert feature.

Charging meals:

In accordance with SB250 and SB 265:

SB 250 Pupil Meals: Child Hunger Prevention and Fair Treatment Act of 2017 (also known as the No Shaming Act), became law on January 1, 2018, and was superseded by SB 265 which became law effective October 12, 2019. The purpose of the law is to prevent the shaming of children who do not have the money to pay for a meal or whose family has unpaid meal debt. All public school districts, county offices of education (COE), and charter schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) must comply with this law.

SB 265 amended Section 49557.5(b)(1) of the California *Education Code (EC)* stating that a pupil whose parent or guardian has unpaid meal charges is not to be shamed, treated differently, or **denied a reimbursable meal of the pupils choice because of the fact that the pupil's parent or guardian has unpaid meal fees, and shall ensure that the pupil is not shamed or treated differently from other pupils**. Schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision or Provision 2 are not affected by this law, as all students receive their meals at no cost; therefore, there is no unpaid meal debt.

A child who has unpaid meal charges, is to be served a reimbursable meal of their choice throughout the school year regardless of the level of debt incurred by the household.

Collection of unpaid meal charges:

Parents/Guardians will be notified, in writing via e-mail or US postal mail if a student's meal account has an unpaid balance. Unpaid balances are due within 10 days from the date of the notice.

If the \$9.00 charge limit is reached the parent/guardian will be promptly notified as well as the school office so that the family can be provided with information about the free and reduced price meal program.

