

Iowa Falls Lunch Program Information:

Lunch accounts are not meant to be charge accounts, rather depositories for maintaining a positive balance in which to draw from for meals.

Meal Accounts and Negative Balance Policy:

The Iowa Falls Community School District Nutrition Service Department is a self-operating program. In order to maintain financial stability and equality of all lunch paying students, policies regarding lunch accounts have been adopted. The State of Iowa Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services recommends that negative balances should not be acceptable.

Each student has a computerized meal account. Parents must **pre-pay** money into the student's meal account. The computer records the meal and deducts the appropriate amount from the student's account. To keep meal prices reasonable, the Food Service Department & office staff at each building closely monitor student accounts to prevent negative balances and charges. Here are some of the services we provide to parents to ensure their child has adequate funds for meals.

- Parents may monitor student accounts from home (via their parent Power School account.)
- Parents may sign up for automatic lunch balance notifications, which will be emailed via PowerSchool when a student's lunch balance reaches \$10.00.
- An email or a letter of account status is sent home if balance falls below \$5.00 per student.
- High School students are encouraged to make phone calls home when their balance reaches \$5.00.
- Online prepayments with debit/credit card at the Iowa Falls website can be made thru pay schools. ***Please allow a minimum of 24 hours for deposits via Pay Schools to be processed and show up in student accounts***
- Cash or check payments are accepted at your child's school office.

Negative balances:

Once a student's lunch balance is -\$10.00, parents will be notified via phone by the principal. Once the balance notification has been communicated, parents/guardians will have three (3) days to pay or make arrangements to pay

outstanding student balances. Parents with negative student accounts will be asked to send a sack lunch from home until negative balances are taken care of or a payment plan schedule is arranged.

Students with negative balances who do not bring a sack lunch from home may receive a sandwich lunch (sandwich and milk) in place of the regular hot lunch that complies with USDA requirements. Middle school and high school students need to notify the office each day they are requesting a sandwich lunch due to an unpaid negative balance.

High school students on free or reduced priced meals may not be allowed to purchase seconds or additional a' la carte items unless they have a positive lunch balance.

Negative balances are expected to be paid in full before the end of the school year or before graduation if a senior. Balances not paid in full will be carried over to the following school year.

Free/Reduced Lunch Applications

A. Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to submit free/reduced lunch application forms annually, as well as, when their household information or income changes. Applications can be submitted at any time and are available during registration or through individual schools, as well, as on the district's website: <http://www.ifacadets.net/link3.php>.

B. Free/reduced applications are also a part of all paperwork provided to families of students transferring into the Iowa Falls Schools.

C. Any lunch balances accrued before a free/reduced lunch application is approved is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to pay.