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Uplift Education wants every scholar to eat a healthy breakfast and lunch each day. We regard it as the responsibility of the parent or guardian to complete the federal lunch application provided by Uplift. The lunch application is used to determine eligibility for Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL). Families that are not eligible for free meals are expected to pay either the reduced cost, or the full cost of the meals provided by Uplift's Child Nutrition Program. Parents may also provide their children with means from home. Instructions for establishing meal accounts are provided by the school.

The following restrictions apply to our Child Nutrition Program as it relates to scholars charging meals to their meal accounts (charging refers to receiving meals on credit):

- If an Uplift scholar's meal account balance has reached zero, the scholar will only be able to charge up to \$10 worth of reimbursable meals (a la carte items such as ice cream, chips, etc. are not reimbursable meals). Once a scholar has reached a negative balance of \$10 or more, that scholar will be served an alternate meal until the negative balance is brought current.
- No a la carte items may ever be charged at any campus, and no a la carte items may be purchased when a scholar has a negative account balance.
- Parents or guardians of scholars with negative balances may work with the leadership of the school to agree to a payment plan on the negative balance and be given up to 60 calendar days to bring the meal account current.
- Applications for a new school year are available annually after July 1<sup>st</sup>; parents will receive multiple reminders to fill out an application during the first 2 weeks of July. Parents are strongly encouraged to fill out applications during the first 2 weeks of July to avoid the possibility of accrued charges on their scholar's meal account.
- Parents who qualify for FRL and fill out the application within the recommended timeframe will be eligible for FRL on the first day of school.
- While parents may fill out an application at any time during the school year, parents that apply after the recommended July timeframe are responsible for the accrued cost of meals until the application has been processed.
- Scholars are not allowed to charge meals during the last 3 weeks of school if they do not have funds in their account.

**This policy was adopted by the Uplift Education Board of Directors on 9/12/15.**