

## **MEAL CHARGE POLICY**

### **DISTRICTWIDE**

#### **Charge Policy – Breakfast and Lunch**

- A complete meal option, in accordance with Federal guidelines, will always be available to students. At no time will a student be denied a meal, nor will the federal meal requirements be substituted with a lesser meal for students with negative account balances.
- A-La-Carte items are not allowed to be charged to a student's account. Students may not purchase these items until their negative balance has been paid in full.
  - Differentiation between a complete meal and an a-la-carte item can be found at: <https://www.garnetvalleyschools.com/Page/10168>
- Students who owe money or do not have money for a school meal will not be publically identified, stigmatized or be required to do work or chores.
- Adult meals, similar to a-la-carte items, may never be charged.

#### **Collection Policy**

- Parent/Guardian will be notified directly when a student's account has gone negative. Negative account balances are **NOT** to be communicated to a student.
- Notifications directly with Parent/Guardian will continue until a student's debt has been paid in full.
- The District will provide Parent/Guardian with assistance in applying for free/reduced meals program if circumstances meet the criteria to partake in the program.
- If necessary, the District will work with the Parent/Guardian to establish a payment plan.
- The District will incorporate all available resources to ensure collection of student debts; including, but not limited to the following:
  - Automated notices of low or negative balance
  - Confidential letters sent home with students and addressed to Parent/Guardian
  - E-mail, as well as telephonic, communication with Parent/Guardian from appropriate District personnel
  - Legal action and/or the usage of a Collection Agency to collect funds owed to the District. Parent/Guardian will also be held responsible for associated fees, if applicable

#### **MySchoolBucks**

For your convenience, the District has contracted with MySchoolBucks to offer Parent/Guardians transparency on students account balances and meal transactions. Parent/Guardian can create a free account at <http://www.myschoolbucks.com>