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Statement of.....

Policy and Responsibility

SUBJECT: SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

It shall be the purpose of the school lunch program to provide well-balanced meals that are nourishing at moderate prices in pleasant surroundings. The program also provides a teaching situation in which the food that children need for proper growth and development is served in an appetizing manner. The program contributes to the social education of the child by providing an opportunity to practice good table manners.

- A. School Lunches -- The Board considers the school lunch program to be a valuable and necessary school program. All employees are to support, encourage, and cooperate with the lunch program.
- B. Price for Lunch -- The price for school lunches shall be set by the Board.
 - 1. Free Lunches -- Free or reduced price lunches may be provided for pupils who cannot pay for the lunch.
 - 2. At the beginning of the school year and when a new student registers for school, the parents shall receive information from the student's resident school that provides:
 - General information about the school lunch program;
 - Prices of meals;
 - Qualifications and process for reduced-price or free meals; and
 - Information parents will receive if their students' meal accounts are delinquent.
- C. If the student's family receives benefits from the Special Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Family Employment Program (FEP) or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the household qualifies for meals at no charge. Upon the district's receipt of the student or family's eligibility under one of these programs, the student or family is not required to complete/submit a free-reduced lunch application. The district's child nutrition program will inform the household by email/letter of the student's eligibility for free meals.
- D. Payments and School Verification
 - 1. The School shall credit meal payments from parents to the student's account before the meal period. This assures all funds are accurately applied to meal accounts in advance

of students receiving a school meal. Schools will apply payments to the purchase of the current day's meal first, and the payment of past-due accounts second. Payment using the automated payment service may result in a one day delay of the posting of the payment to the student's account.

2. Once a student/family qualifies for free meals, no payments are due. Student/family is responsible for payment of any deficit balances incurred prior to qualification for free meals.
3. If a family qualifies for reduced priced meals, the school will charge no more than \$.40 for lunch or \$.30 for breakfast.
4. Parent payment options for student meals include:
 - a. Parents may use the automated payment service, using a debit or credit card, for one or all of their students, allocating the funds to individual students' accounts.
 - b. Parents may make payments to the school or district office by mail, hand delivery, or in person. Payments should clearly indicate the account to which the funds are to be credited (student's name and amount). Schools and the district office will accept checks, money orders and/or cash.
5. The school is not required to provide a meal at no cost if a student does not qualify for a free meal.

G. Delinquent Balances and School Procedures

1. School shall follow the procedures described in the Murray City School District – Food Service Administrative Guidelines, to notify parents of delinquent balances.
2. Once a student has received a meal, regardless of a delinquent balance, the meal shall never be taken from the student.

H. Vending Machines –Refer to Murray City School District Policy, BU 712 Vending Machines.