

Unpaid Meal Charge and Debt Collection for Districtwide Provision Schools

Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to establish consistent district practices for the provision of meals to students who have insufficient funds in their school meal accounts and the collection of unpaid meal debt.

General Statement of Procedure

1. St. John's Lutheran School's goal is to provide nutritious meals to students to promote healthy eating habits and enhance learning as well as to maintain the financial integrity of the National School Breakfast and Lunch program and eliminate stigmatization of children who are unable to pay meal charges.
2. St. John's Lutheran School participates in the Free School Meals Program for both breakfast and lunch all enrolled students will receive breakfast and lunch at no charge.
3. It is the procedure of St. John's to offer breakfast and lunch meals that meet state and federal guidelines.
4. St. John's will maintain the dignity of students by prohibiting lunch shaming or otherwise ostracizing the student.
5. St. John's will not withdraw a meal from a student once a meal has been placed on a tray or has otherwise been served a meal regardless of outstanding meals balance.
6. Students eligible for free or reduced-price meals will always be served a meal regardless of unpaid food service accounts.
7. Alternate meals may not be provided to students as a result of school lunch debt. Providing an alternate meal not on the scheduled menu violates a Minnesota law ([Minn. Statute 124D.111, subdivision 5](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/124D.111) [2022] <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/124D.111>) that requires respectful treatment of students regarding school lunch debt.
8. St. John's does not use a collections agency to collect unpaid school meals debt.