

## **Policy Code: 6500 CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

All schools shall participate in the National Child Nutrition Program, under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Public Instruction, Division of Child Nutrition. All programs shall be operated in accordance with federal guidelines established by the Child Nutrition Division of the United States Department of Agriculture, state guidelines established by the State Department of Public Instruction and local guidelines established by Board policy.

Banking, recordkeeping, budgeting, and accounting for the food services program, shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted practices and procedures, as dictated by the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act and in accordance with state and federal guidelines.

The school system's food services program will comply with all local, state, and federal rules and regulations to establish and maintain high standards of safety and sanitation.

Competitive food sales are allowed only if profits accrue to the Child Nutrition Program and will be used solely by the Child Nutrition Program.

All food or beverages sold to students must be provided by the Child Nutrition Program. All of the food and beverage items sold must meet the National School Child Nutrition Program Guidelines. No other food or beverages may be sold until 30 minutes after school is dismissed.

Students who are required to pay for meals are expected to provide payment in a timely manner. The board recognizes, however, that students occasionally may forget or lose their meal money. In the event that a student is unable to pay for a meal on a particular day, the student may charge a reimbursable meal. To safeguard the dignity and confidentiality of students in the serving line, reasonable efforts must be used whenever possible to avoid calling attention to a student's inability to pay.

The child nutrition director and principal shall work jointly to prevent meal charges from accumulating and shall make every effort to collect all funds due to the child nutrition program on a regular basis and before the end of the school term. Notices of low or negative balances in a child's meal account will be sent to parents and the principal at regular intervals during the school year. If a parent regularly fails to provide meal money and does not qualify for free meal benefits, the child nutrition director shall inform the principal, who shall determine the next course of action, which may include notifying the department of social services of suspected child neglect and/or taking legal steps to recover the unpaid meal charges. Parents are expected to pay all meal charges in full by the last day of each school year. Negative balances on student accounts will be carried forward to the following school year. However, the superintendent shall ensure that federal child nutrition funds are not used to offset the cost of unpaid meals and that the CNP is reimbursed for bad debt resulting from uncollected student meal charges prior to September 30 each year.

This policy and any applicable procedures regarding meal charges must be communicated to school administrators, school food service professional, parents, and students. Parents will receive a written copy of the meal charges policy and any applicable procedures at the start of each school year and at any time their child transfers into a new school during the school year.

LEGAL REF: Child Nutrition Act of 1966, [42 U.S.C. 1771](#) *et seq.*; National School Lunch Act, [42 U.S.C. 1751](#) *et seq.*, [7 C.F.R. pt. 210](#); [2 C.F.R. pt. 200](#); [7 C.F.R. pt. 215](#); [7 C.F.R. pt. 220](#); United States Department of Agriculture Policy Memos SP 46-2016 and 47-2016, available at <http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/regulations-policies/usda-policy-memos/2016/2016usda-policymemos>; [G.S. 115C-47\(7\)](#), [-47\(22\)](#), [-263](#), [-264](#), [-264.1](#), [-426](#), [-450](#), [-522](#); [147, art. 6E](#); [16 N.C.A.C. 6H .0104](#); State Board of Education Policy ~~TCS-S-000~~ [SHLT-000](#), [CHNU-002](#), [NCAC-6H.0004](#)

ADOPTED: February 7, 2005

AMENDED: March 10, 2014; November 3, 2014; June 7, 2016; February 7, 2017

**Edenton-Chowan Schools**