



BASIS BATON ROUGE CHARTER SCHOOLS UNPAID MEAL POLICY

BASIS Baton Rouge Charter Schools recognize the important link between proper nutrition and academic success. The purpose of this policy is to establish a procedure for serving meals when students do not have money to pay, preventing unpaid balances, and ensuring eligible children are certified for free and reduced-price school meals.

Meal Charges:

Because hunger is an impediment to learning, no child shall be denied a school meal or served an alternative meal because of an inability to pay. All children will be served a meal that meets the U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrition standards for school meals.

All non-eligible students will be charged for their meals. Meal balances will be updated in family Blackbaud accounts at the beginning of each month.

Preventing meal charges:

School staff will act to prevent meal charges in the following ways:

- Parents and/or guardians may view their child's meal balance which is uploaded at the beginning of each month for the month prior online through Blackbaud.
- **All payments to BASIS Charter Schools are made through Blackbaud.**

Mail Payment:

Blackbaud's Charter Services
P.O. Box 54228

Los Angeles, CA 90054-0228

Please include School Code and Family ID on check or money order. If you need assistance obtaining these, please contact the school.

Online Payment:

<https://parent.blackbaud.school>

Phone Payment:

(877) 418-1003

Please have your School Code and Family ID number ready. If you need assistance obtaining these, please contact the school.

- If needed students may also pay for meals daily at the front office.
- Meal applications are available prior to the start of the school year and included in all new enrollment packets.
- All program materials are available in both English and Spanish as well as other languages upon request.
- State data will be promptly utilized to certify eligible children without an application; and

- The school will ensure that households are aware of negative account balances and the potential to accrue meal debt by contacting the family directly to notify parents of delinquent balances.

Collecting Unpaid Meal Debt:

Communication regarding unpaid meal debt shall be directed to parents or guardians.

Prior to contacting households regarding unpaid meal debt, the school nutrition staff shall ensure that the student is not participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, or other federal programs, which would confer categorical eligibility for free school meals, or is not homeless, migrant, or in foster care, and would allow them to be certified without an application.

Any household with a negative school lunch account balance shall be contacted immediately by school nutrition staff by email, phone, or letter home to provide information on how to apply for free or reduced-price school meals or to add funds to the school nutrition account.

For households that cannot afford to pay their school meal charges, the school nutrition department will work with them to establish a payment plan. Households that are subsequently certified for free school meals at a point later in the school year shall not be required to repay school meal debt accrued prior to the certification date of the application. Households that are subsequently certified for reduced price school meals, prior meal debt will be calculated at the reduced-price rate for which repayment will be required for any school meal debt accrued prior to the certification date of the application.

Carry-Over Unpaid Meal Debt:

Negative balances must be cleared up before the end of the school year. Notices will continue until the debt has been paid. All positive/negative balances at the end of the school year will carry over to the next school year.