

**RSU #16** (Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland)

**Policy Code:** *JQA* msm

**Adopted:** *November 2013*

**Revised:**

### **School Nutrition Unpaid Charges Policy**

The goal of our school nutrition program is to provide healthy meals to all students on a daily basis.

Due to Federal regulations requiring all money owed to the food service program to be paid by the end of the school year, food service is not allowed to absorb the debt incurred, or let debt roll over year to year without compensation.

Students in grades K-12 cannot charge unless it is an emergency and the emergency charge amount cannot exceed \$15.00. A la carte food items may not be charged. Parents will be notified of existing charges and will be required to render payment. Parents will have on-line accessibility to view and pay on accounts. The preferred method of payment is debit/credit cards and checks. Every effort will be made to help any family who is in need. Applications for free/reduced lunch will be available to take home to his/her parent/legal guardian.

Federal regulations also prohibit adults/staff from charging.

Allowing charges to accumulate can lead to tremendous deficits for the school nutrition program. If charges become excessive or the parent/legal guardian refuses to pay after being contacted, the district reserves the right to take steps deemed necessary to collect charges owed. These actions may include contacting small claims court to collect the money owed, notifying the Department of Human Services of child neglect, or other actions as advised by RSU 16 legal counsel.

#### **SIGNATURE BLOCK:**

RSU #16 School Board

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Jack Wiseman, Vice Chair

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Tina Love

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Julie Rioux

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Ed Rabasco, Jr.

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Mary Ella Jones

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