

MEAL CHARGE POLICY - SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027

Did you know that Child Nutrition Services (CNS) uses a special revenue fund that strives to not receive General Fund support from the district? We must balance our budget through meal sales, snack sales and state/federal reimbursements. Coronado Unified School District has a meal system which has been adopted at all our schools. The system goals are to:

- Treat all students with dignity and respect
- Maintain a positive experience for your child during meal service
- Establish practices that are age appropriate and
- Promote parent responsibility for a la carte payments and self-responsibility of the student.

Beginning in school year 2022-2023, and continuing into school year 2024-2025, **California became the first state to implement a statewide Universal Meals Program for school children. Education Code 49501.5 requires public school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools serving students in grades TK-12 to provide two meals free of charge (breakfast and lunch) during each school day to students requesting a meal, regardless of their free or reduced-price meal eligibility.** Meal applications will not be needed to receive the free daily breakfast and/or lunch meal.

Although meals will be free for all, **the state continues to require school districts to distribute and collect free/reduced meal applications.** Free/reduced meal applications allow the district to collect essential data needed to qualify for additional school funding intended to support academic programs for your student. Additionally, free/reduced eligibility can qualify households for things such as discounted internet services, P-EBT benefits, discounted rates on your energy bill, and more. Households are encouraged to apply online at www.myschoolapps.com.

At the Elementary School level, each student will be able to come through the line and get one free breakfast and/or one free lunch meal per day. This includes the choice of one entrée, one milk, and whatever fruits/vegetables they would like from the salad bar. No second meals will be allowed for purchase to ensure all students are able to get a first meal if they desire. If students are still hungry, the salad bar is buffet style, and they may go through for seconds on any of the fresh fruit/vegetable options for the day.

At the Middle and High School level, each student will be able to come through the line and get one free breakfast and/or one free lunch meal per day. This includes the choice of one entrée, one milk, one juice, and whatever fruits/vegetables they would like from the salad bar. There is a nutrition break where students may purchase a la carte items,

such as snacks and drinks, using their pin number or cash. The lunch period also has a la carte items along with the featured lunch specials. A la carte snacks will be denied if there is no money on the student's account. Second meals will be allowed for purchase once all students have been through the line to receive a first lunch. This is to ensure all students can get a first meal if they desire. If students are still hungry, the salad bar is buffet style, and they may go through for seconds on any of the fresh fruit/vegetable options for the day.

Payments for a la carte sales may be made by cash or check in the "CNS Deposit" box at each of our school offices. In the event of a returned check due to insufficient funds, a \$15 fee will be charged to the meal account. For your convenience, credit card charges can be made online by logging on to www.myschoolbucks.com and setting up an account. You can view your child's account balance anytime and receive reminder emails. In addition, those who have a smart phone can download the MySchoolBucks app to make payments and check balances for your child's meal account even easier.

When a student becomes unenrolled from the district and has a positive balance left on their account, the CNS Department or acting parties will contact the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will have the option to transfer the money to a sibling, donate the money to the needy students in the district, or to request a refund. In the event the parent/guardian cannot be reached, after three years' time, the money will be turned over to the state collection account.

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Charity Campbell, MS, RD, SNS
Director, Child Nutrition Services
619-522-8907 x2085

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1. mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax:
202-690-7442; or
3. email:
Program.Intake@usda.gov.

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