

## **Preston Public Schools Meal Charge Policy**

The goal of Preston Public School is to provide students will healthy meals each day. However, unpaid charges place a large financial burden on our Food Services Department. The purpose of this policy is to insure compliance with federal reporting requirements for the USDA Child Nutrition Program, and to provide oversight and accountability for the collection of outstanding student meal balances. While the USDA Child Nutrition Program does not require that a student who pays for regular priced meals be served a meal without payment, Preston Public School provides this policy as a courtesy to those students in the event that they forget or lose their lunch money.

It is the policy of Preston Public School that all school meals must be prepaid. Students and staff will only be allowed to charge up to, and not exceed 10 meals, this is approximately \$15.00. Once an account has reached the set limit an appropriate meal designated by the state will be offered. He or she will be served a complimentary cheese or peanut butter sandwich & milk or water for each meal needed until balance is brought to the positive.

At the beginning of each school year Free/Reduced forms are given to each student in enrollment packets. Parents will be notified if they are eligible for meal benefits by letter.

Payments can be made to homeroom teachers or directly to the school office at each site. Balance reminders are sent out to students each week. Student account balances may also be seen on student information website using student ID number.

If a student is without meal money on a consistent basis, the administration will investigate the situation more closely and take further action as needed. If financial hardship exists, parents and families are encouraged to apply for free or reduced price lunches for their child.