



85 Delaware Avenue  
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Telephone: (845) 676-3166

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[www.andescentralschool.org](http://www.andescentralschool.org)

Assistant Principal  
Samantha Candreva

Superintendent  
Brigid Collins, Ed.D.

Building Principal  
Chris Aguirre

3/31/25

Dear Families,

We are off to a great start this school year and are looking forward to the upcoming holiday season! As part of our efforts to keep things running smoothly, I'd like to share some important updates regarding meal payments, free and reduced-price meal applications, and how we manage negative account balances. These adjustments will help us ensure that all students continue to receive nutritious meals while we manage our food program responsibly.

### Free and Reduced-Price Meal Applications

If you believe your family may qualify for free or reduced meals, please submit your application as soon as possible. Applications are evaluated upon receipt, and starting early will help avoid delays in approval. Here are some important details:

- **No need to apply** if you currently receive Medicaid or SNAP benefits.
- If your child qualified for free or reduced meals last year, their status **expired on October 1, 2024**. After this date, full meal prices will apply unless a new application is approved.
- Meal prices for this school year are **\$1.50 for breakfast** and **\$2.25 for lunch**.
- While your application is being processed, families are responsible for the **full cost of meals**. If your application is not approved, full prices will apply for the remainder of the school year.
- You can submit an updated application at any point during the school year, but we recommend having a **current application on file by October 31, 2024**. Submitting your application by this date ensures any changes will occur by November 1, 2024.

### Updated Meal Charging Policy – School Policy #5660

In line with School Policy #5660, we've made some changes to how meal charges are handled to keep our program sustainable:

- **In accordance with New York State Education Law § 908**, students are allowed to charge a school meal regardless of the status of their food service account.
- **Snacks and second meals cannot be charged** to meal accounts.
- A monthly report from Frontline will be used to monitor charged meals.

These changes are essential to managing meal debt effectively while providing healthy meals throughout the school year.



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## Managing Negative Meal Balances

If your child's account shows a negative balance, we kindly ask that you pay the outstanding amount within 30 days. Students with a carried-over negative balance will still be allowed to charge meals. If you need assistance or more time to make a payment, please contact Dr. Brigid Collins to discuss payment options.

## Supporting Families with MySchoolBucks

To assist families in managing their meal accounts, we continue to use **MySchoolBucks**, an online payment platform that makes school-related expenses simple and convenient. Through MySchoolBucks, parents can:

- **Add funds** to their child's account
- **Track balances** and **monitor meal purchases** in real time
- Receive **low-balance notifications**

MySchoolBucks is **free to use**, though there is a small transaction fee for payments. You can sign up or learn more at [myschoolbucks.com](http://myschoolbucks.com). For those who prefer, **cash or check payments** are still accepted without fees, though we cannot provide receipt slips for cash payments.

## Summary and Contact Information

Attached is a summary of the policy updates and any **current meal debt for this school year**. While ensuring every student has access to meals remains a priority, these updates will help us manage the program more effectively moving forward.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact **Ms. Candreva** at **845-676-3166**.

Thank you for your attention to these important updates and for your cooperation in helping us provide healthy meals for all students this school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Aguirre".

Chris Aguirre  
Principal, Andes Central School



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#### **Mail:**

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

#### **Fax:**

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

#### **Email:**

[Program.Intake@usda.gov](mailto:Program.Intake@usda.gov)

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