



85 Delaware Avenue
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www.andescentralschool.org

Assistant Principal
Samantha Candreva

Superintendent
Brigid Collins, Ed.D.

Building Principal
Chris Aguirre

3/31/25

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of some important changes regarding handling negative account balances for school meals. This year, in accordance with **School Policy 5660**, we will be adjusting how meal payments are managed.

Andes School Board Policy 5660

Section: Child Nutrition Program / Charging Meals

Although not required by law, due to the District's participation in the Child Nutrition Program, the Board of Education has approved establishing a system that allows students to charge meals. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop rules addressing the following:

- A:** What can be charged;
- B:** The limit on the number of charges per student;
- C:** The system used for identifying and recording charged meals;
- D:** The system used for collecting repayments and
- E:** Ongoing communication of the policy to parents and students.

As we strive to improve the way meal charging is handled, the following rules will be in place this year:

- **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.
- Only meals can be charged; snacks and second meals are not chargeable items.
- A monthly report from Frontline will be used to monitor charged meals.
- We will communicate with parents about their child's meal account status via email, School Messenger, and written letters.

By enforcing these guidelines, we aim to prevent families from accumulating significant meal charges throughout the school year.



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School Meal Payment Policy

Schools must charge for meals, and families who do not qualify for free or reduced-price meals are expected to pay the full price. Previously, we allowed students to charge meals to ensure all had access to breakfast and lunch. However, starting this year, we will enforce **School Policy 5660** (please see the enclosed insert for details). This policy will help us maintain a healthy and fun menu for all students.

For Students with Zero or Negative 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.

Payment Assistance

If you have a negative balance and need more time or assistance with payments, please contact me to schedule an appointment and discuss payment options.

We understand that changes like these can be challenging, but they are necessary to ensure that our food program remains sustainable and available to all students. If you have any questions about this process, please contact **Ms. Candreva** at 845-676-3166.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Brigid Collins
Superintendent,
Andes Central School

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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

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