

8544 OUTSTANDING FOOD SERVICE CHARGES

The Board of Education recognizes that a student may forget to bring breakfast (as applicable) or lunch, or money to purchase a meal during the course of the school day. When this occurs, the Food Service Program is directed to provide the student with a meal with the expectation that payment will be made. However, if a situation arises when payment is not made and a student's food service account is in arrears, the District will manage a student's food service account in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21 and this Policy 8544.

In the event a student's food service account is in arrears, the Principal or his/her designee is directed to notify the student's parent/guardian via email and written letter in the primary language spoken at home of the amount in arrears and advise the parent/guardian that he/she has ten school days (from the date of the written notice) to pay the full amount owed. If the student's parent/guardian does not make full payment to the Food Service Program by the end of the ten school days, the Principal or his/her designee will again contact the student's parent/guardian and provide a second notice that their child's food service account is in arrears. If payment in full is not made within five school days from the date of the second notice, the Board directs that the student will be provided with breakfast or lunch that meets the meal pattern and nutrition standards based on the latest *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.

A parent/guardian receiving a second notice that the food service account is in arrears and who has not made payment in full within five school days from the date of the second notice may be requested to meet with the Principal or his/her designee to discuss and resolve the matter.

The refusal of a parent/guardian to resolve the matter may be indicative of more serious issues in the family or household. In these situations, the Principal or his/her designee is directed to consult with and seek necessary services from both the County Board of Social Services and the Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency, as appropriate.

If it is reasonably suspected to be indicative of child abuse or neglect, the Principal or his/her designee shall immediately report such suspicion to the Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency as required by N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10.

Written notice of the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21 and this Policy will be provided to all parents/guardians of students in the Princeton Public Schools at the beginning of every school year or other manner as determined by the Superintendent.

N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21
Adopted: 28 March 2017

