Bridgewater Emery Meal Charge Policy

The goal of the Bridgewater Emery School District is to provide students with healthy meals each day. However, unpaid charges place a large financial burden on our Food Services Department. The purpose of this policy is to ensure 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.

Our school district implements a school lunch policy that allows children to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day, minimize identification of children with insufficient funds to pay for school meals, and maintain the financial integrity of the nonprofit school food service account (NSFSA).

Billing

Billing Procedure: Bridgewater Emery requires families to pre-pay for meals purchased at school. Students receive a PIN number at the beginning of the school year. This 4-digit code allows our software to track purchases made during the month. Any charges that occur will be deducted from the amount that has been prepaid on your lunch account.

Payment Options: Payment can be made in either school office with cash or check. Checks can also be mailed to Bridgewater Emery School District, Attn: Ashley Zens, PO Box 350, Bridgewater, SD 57319. Please make checks payable to "B-E Schools." You can also create an account online, and pay with a credit or debit card, but you will be charged a service fee.

Balance Notifications: Balance notifications are sent out via text message or email once your prepay balance is below $50.00.

Billing Contact: If you have any questions regarding your invoice, please contact Ashley Zens at 605-729-2541 or ashley.l.zens@k12.sd.us.

Policy

Full Pay Students: All students with full pay status will be charged for meals at the district's published standard rate. It is our policy that no student will ever be turned away from the meal service line. However, if an account has a negative balance and no payment plan is in place, then the student will not be allowed to charge seconds or extra milk until the bill is paid. If a family continues to be delinquent with no payment plan in place, the student will be offered a designated menu alternate at an alternative price. Sample: Sun butter & jelly sandwich, veggie sticks, fruit, and milk.

Free Meal Benefit: Free status students will be allowed to receive a free breakfast and lunch each day. However, seconds on lunch costs $1.00 and extra milk costs $0.30. If these charges occur during the month, they will be subject to the same payment requirements as a full pay student.
Reduced Meal Benefit: Reduced status students will be allowed to receive a breakfast for $0.00 and lunch for $0.00 each day. If an account has a negative balance and no payment plan is in place, then the student will not be allowed to charge seconds or extra milk until the bill is paid. If a family continues to be delinquent with no payment plan in place, the student will be offered a designated menu alternate at an alternative price. Sample: Sun butter & jelly sandwich, veggie sticks, fruit, and milk

I. Parents/Guardians are responsible for meal payment to the food service program. Parents and guardians are asked to prepay on their family account. Once their account goes below $50.00, they will receive a text message or email stating their account is low and they should add more funds.

II. Both school cafeterias possess a computerized point of sale/cash register system that maintains records of all monies deposited and spent for each student. If you have questions on your account or need a detailed report of charges that occur during the month, please contact Ashley Zens at 605-729-2541 or ashley.l.zens@k12.sd.us.

III. At the end of the school year, any remaining funds for a particular account will be carried over to the next school year unless another request has been communicated to the school.

IV. If an account is continually going unpaid, 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.