



# RIVER CITY SCIENCE ACADEMY

## River City Science Academy (RCSA) School Lunch and Breakfast Program

### Meal Charge Policy

	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<i>Free Eligible Status</i>	No charge	No charge
<i>Reduced Eligible Status</i>	\$0.30	\$0.40
<i>Paid Eligible Status</i>	\$3.50	\$5.25

### Unpaid Meal Policy

We strongly believe that nutritious meals are a vital component to a healthy school environment and that they may enhance learning while helping to minimize illness, absences and disciplinary problems.

It shall be the policy of our schools that when a meal is desired, payment for that meal is expected in advance or on that day unless the student has been approved for free meal benefits.

It is the duty of the parent/guardian and/or student to track cafeteria account balances.

Free/reduced meal applications must be completed every year and are part of the annual paperwork. Online applications are available on RCSA website. Paper applications are also available at each school and can be sent via e mail. Applications are accepted at any time throughout the school year.

For students who have negative balances, RCSA will follow the steps below:

<b>Days of Negative Balance</b>	<b>Resulting Action</b>
1	Student can get lunch: parent contact (email).
2	Student can get lunch; parent contact (phone calls, email, other parent communication platforms).
3	Student cannot get any a la carte item until funds are deposited into the SLA lunch account.

- Students approved for free meals may not be denied a meal.
- For Kindergarten and Elementary students with negative meal account balances, appropriate school officials will notify parents/guardians in a confidential and discreet manner.
- For Middle School students with negative meal account balances, appropriate school officials will notify parents/guardians in a confidential and discreet manner.
- For High School students with negative meal account balances, appropriate school officials will notify parents/guardians and/or students in a confidential and discreet manner.
- Paid-status students with a negative balance of \$20.00 or more, after three (3) collection attempts, may be subject to consequences for unpaid meal charges. These students will not be permitted to purchase à la carte items until the balance is resolved.

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- Reduced-price-status students with a negative balance of \$20.00 or more, after three (3) collection attempts, may be subject to consequences for unpaid meal charges. These students will not be permitted to purchase reimbursable meals or à la carte items until the balance is resolved.
- Free-status students with a negative balance of \$20.00 or more, after three (3) collection attempts, may be subject to consequences for unpaid meal charges. These students will not be permitted to purchase second reimbursable meals or à la carte items until the balance is resolved.
- Students with unresolved negative meal account balances may be restricted from participation in school field trips and senior privileges, as determined by school administration.
- The district will prevent overt identification of students eligible for free, reduced-price, or paid meal benefits.
- This policy will be distributed to all households annually.
- Positive balances remaining in student meal accounts at the end of the school year will roll over to the following school year for returning students. For graduating or non-returning students, parents/guardians may request a refund or transfer the remaining balance to another student account in accordance with district procedures. Unclaimed balances will be handled in compliance with district financial guidelines.
- The Site Business Specialist will notify parents/guardians regarding negative meal account balances and remind them to replenish student accounts.
- Currently, the Lunchtime Portal is the only available payment method for parents/guardians to make meal account payments.
- Outstanding negative balances for returning students will carry over into the following school year. Negative balances for non-returning students will be classified as bad debt in accordance with district procedures.
- The district does not provide alternative meals for students with unpaid meal balances.

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