

## **New Cafeteria Program Regulation To Address Student Lunch Charges**

### **New Elementary School Cafeteria Regulation:**

Beginning Wednesday, September 10, 2008 all elementary school students who have charged four meals or more regardless of full paid or reduced lunch status, will not be entitled to any of the daily school lunch meal choices. Students with four or more charges will instead be issued a cheese sandwich on wheat bread with an eight ounce container of milk, until all monies owed are paid in full.

A daily charge slip will be issued after each lunch charge, which would be deposited in the teacher's mailbox for the student to take home. This lunch charge slip will be a bright or unique color, and will contain a warning stating that unless all monies owed are paid in full, an alternative lunch will be issued after the fourth lunch charge. The form will also list the methods for payments to school lunch accounts.

The alternative lunch will accumulate a meal charge of \$1.25 per day for full paid students and \$.40 per day for reduced paid students.

Students would be issued this alternative lunch until all monies owed are paid in full, regardless of whether the student is paying for lunch with cash on any given day.

If a student has any allergies related to this alternative lunch, another alternative lunch will be served whenever possible.

Note: USDA regulations require substitutions or modifications in school meals for children whose disabilities restrict their diets. A child with a disability must be provided substitutions in foods when that need is supported by a statement signed by a licensed physician. The physician's statement must identify the child's disability, an explanation of why the disability restricts the child's diet, the major life activity affected by the disability, the food or foods to be omitted from the child's diet, or choice of foods that must be substituted.

Generally, children with food allergies do not have a disability as defined under either section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, or part B of IDEA, and the school food service may, but is not required to make food substitutions for them. However, when in the licensed physician's assessment, food allergies may result in severe life threatening (anaphylactic reactions), the child's condition would meet the definition of "disability", and the substitutions prescribed by the licensed physician must be made, even if the child is not considered disabled under section 504 or IDEA. In this case a Medical Statement for Children without Disabilities form must be completed and on file. Students with food allergies that are not life threatening are not considered to have a disability. Schools may, but are not required to, make meal pattern substitutions for these children. Any substitutions made would require a completed medical Statement for Children without disabilities form to be on file.

The Plainville Food Services has available the required medical statement for a child with or without a disability.

### **Issue Resolution:**

All parent complaints, concerns, and questions should be directed to the Foodservice Management staff, which has access to student lunch histories and lunch payment records.

Every *reasonable* effort will be made to resolve any conflicts.

This proposed regulation is in concurrence with USDA policy on this issue.