

MEAL ACCOUNT MAINTENANCE

All school meal accounts are debit accounts; therefore there must be money in the account for the user to purchase meals, milk and ala carte items. **Meal account users need to maintain a positive balance in their meal account.**

Charging of meals is discouraged in any of the Bemidji Schools. Charging is not allowed for ala carte, second meal and second milk purchases.

All meal account users are encouraged to complete an **Application for Educational Benefits** which is sent to district residents in August. Applications **MUST** be completed and returned **EACH YEAR** to determine eligibility. **Please return these applications as soon as possible to the food service office at 502 Minnesota Ave NW.** Benefits of the program cannot be given to the meal account user until applications have been submitted and reviewed for eligibility. Application for Educational Benefits can be made any time of the school year, if the need arises.

If a meal account holder should need assistance for unpaid meal balances, they MUST complete an Application for Educational Benefits AND communicate with the food service office to determine type of assistance.

Payments may be made to individual meal accounts using your credit/debit card online with "Family Access" (follow directions posted on the site in August). Using the online payment center allows you to credit a meal account at any time. A minimal fee is charged to cover the cost of this convenience. You may also mail payments to the district office or place them in an envelope and put them in a food service drop box at any school. Personal checks should be written to ISD #31 with the meal account holder's name and PIN in the memo area. When sending cash, please place it in an envelope and write the meal account holder's name, PIN and the amount enclosed on the envelope.

Questions or concerns regarding the food service programs can be directed to the Bemidji Area Schools Food Service Office at 333-3100 ext 31141 or 31142.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider