

EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

240 Ege Street  
Jersey City, NJ 07304



## Free and Reduced Price Meal Policy

The board adopts the free and reduced-price policy developed by the Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs pursuant to federal regulations as its own.

Further, it is the policy of the board of trustees that the school shall participate in any federal or state subsidized food program for the benefit of eligible students. Student eligibility shall be as determined by the guidelines of the subsidizing agency. The board requires that all regulations of the subsidizing agency be observed including those that preserve the privacy of eligible students.

### CHARGE MEAL POLICY / OUTSTANDING MEAL CHARGE POLICY

The School District will manage a food service account for its students that is in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21 and this Policy.

When a student forgets to bring breakfast, lunch, or money to purchase breakfast or lunch to school on a school day, the district food service program shall provide the student with breakfast or lunch and charge the price of that breakfast or lunch against the student's account with an expectation that payment will be made the next school day or shortly thereafter. However, no ala carte items shall be charged.

There may be circumstances when payment is not made and a student's school breakfast/lunch bill is in arrears. No ala carte items may be purchased when a student's bill is in arrears. The school district will manage a student's breakfast or lunch bill that is in arrears in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21 and this Policy.

In the event a student's school lunch or breakfast bill is in arrears, the Head Dean or designee shall contact the student's parent/guardian to provide notice of the amount in arrears and shall provide the parent/guardian a period often school days to pay the full amount due. If the student's parent/guardian does not make full payment to the Head Dean or designee by the end of the ten school days, the Head Dean or designee shall again contact the student's parent/guardian to provide a second notice that their child's lunch or breakfast bill is in arrears. If payment in full is not made within one week from the date of the second notice, then beginning on the eighth calendar day from the date of the second notice, the student will not be served the school breakfast or lunch items scheduled for that day, but will instead be served an alternate meal of a cheese sandwich and milk.

A parent/guardian who has received a second notice that their child's lunch or breakfast bill is in arrears and who has not made payment in full within one week from the date of the second notice will be requested to meet with the Head Dean or designee to discuss and resolve the matter. In the event the parent/guardian refuses to meet with the Head Dean or designee or is unable to resolve the matter, it may be indicative of more serious problems in the family or household. Under these circumstances, the Head Dean or designee is directed to seek support from social service agencies for the family or household, and to report the parent/guardian's failure/inability to provide breakfast or lunch, as applicable, for the child to the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency.

If a parent/guardian no longer has children enrolled in the school district, or becomes eligible for free meals, the parent/guardian may request reimbursement of any balance in a child's account. Funds for students continuing with the school the following school year will remain in the account for the next school year.

The provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21 and this Policy will be made available to parent/guardians of all children in the school district in a manner as determined by the Head Dean.