



I. PURPOSE

Athlos Academy of Utah offers healthy meals for students every school day. Some children may qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.

II. POLICY

A. Athlos Academy of Utah will send an *Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals* form to the households of all enrolled students prior to the beginning of each school year explaining eligibility for and the process of applying for free or reduced-price school meals.

1. The *Application for Educational Benefits* form shall be delivered in a family's home language.

B. Free or reduced-price meals are available for children who qualify.

1. If a family qualifies for free or reduced-price meals, the *Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals* form must be completed each school year and submitted to the front office within the first 30 days of the school year to prevent any gaps in benefits.

2. Families may apply for free or reduced-price meals any time during the school year, and should apply if the family's financial circumstances change.

3. Once the application is either approved or denied, Athlos Academy of Utah will send notification letters to each household explaining eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

4. Those receiving free or reduced-price meals will have those prices carried over for the first 30 school days of the next school year or until Athlos Academy of Utah receives a new application.

C. Parent/guardians of all students are encouraged to submit an *Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals* form even if their child does not plan to eat school meals, as unexpected circumstances may arise and students may eat a school meal. In order for benefits to apply, this form **must** already be on file with the school.

1. Half-day kindergarten students will **not** be provided with school meals on a regular basis, however parent/guardians may still submit an *Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals*.

D. School breakfast and lunch prices will be determined annually based on federal reimbursement rates.

Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Policy

1. Any intended changes to the cost of school meals will be available to parent/guardians prior to the start of the school year.
 2. The preferred payment method for school meals is online through Athlos Academy of Utah's website.
- E. Students are allowed to charge up to a negative \$15 balance on their school meal accounts.
1. Any student whose lunch debt exceeds \$15 will be offered an alternative meal and charged a reduced price set by the Lead School Administrator, not to exceed 80% of a full-priced meal.
 - a. Alternative meals shall meet or exceed Federal nutritional standards defined by the United States Department of Agriculture in the National School Lunch Program.
 2. Parent/guardians will be notified when a student's balance becomes overdrawn and again when it reaches a debt of \$10.
 - a. This notification shall outline the consequences of not paying the bill including the provisioning of alternative meals and any means the school may use to collect unpaid fees.
 - b. This notification shall include an *Application for Educational Benefits* in the student's home language.
 3. Substantially overdrawn accounts will be referred to the Lead School Administrator and the counselor.
 4. Efforts will be taken to ensure that the means of notification does not demean or stigmatize any student.
 5. Unpaid lunch deficits must be accounted for by the school utilizing unrestricted funds from the general fund.