

#### 4.51 – Food Service Prepayment

The Van Buren School District expects timely payment for food items purchased in the school cafeteria. Meals may be paid for daily or in advance at the school cafeteria with cash or a check. Online payments may be made with a credit or debit card at <https://lingconnect.com/HC346K>, 24 hours a day. The link for this site is on the school district's website, [vbsd.us](http://vbsd.us)

The federal reporting requirements do not allow the VBSD Child Nutrition Department to extend credit to children or their parents. Parents are required to pay for each child's meals as they are provided.

Students/Parents who fail to pay for purchased food items will be notified by mail; accounts left unpaid will be turned over to a collection agency and/or the Crawford County Prosecuting Attorney.

Remaining funds or negative balances for a student will be carried over to the next school year.

There will be no charging of a la carte items in any school cafeteria.

The federal Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act of 2007 requires creditors to implement Identity Theft Protection. Efforts will be made by district officials to reclaim the cost of any food items made available to elementary and secondary students who mistakenly forget to bring lunch money to school.

Nothing in this policy is designed to prohibit school officials from feeding a student who has forgotten his daily lunch money. Parents are accountable for taking care of each of their children's nutrition needs, even when the children are at school. Parents may provide food from home or local restaurants **for their children ONLY**. Parents may not bring food to school for any other children.

Parents are encouraged to apply for free or reduced meals for their children if they qualify based on their income. Applications are available at each school and online and are accepted for processing at any time during the school year.

Approved by Board of Education 04/10/12

Amended by Board of Education 06/13/17

Amended by Board of Education 07/22/19