



## ***NEGATIVE LUNCH BALANCE POLICY***

### **CENTRAL COMMUNITY USD 301 NEGATIVE LUNCH BALANCE POLICY**

The State of Illinois enacted the Hunger – Free Students’ Bill of Rights Act in August, 2018. This act requires every school: elementary, middle and secondary, participating in the National School Lunch Program, in the State of Illinois, to provide a Value Meal Lunch to any student who requests a lunch regardless of the student’s ability to pay or amount of money owed for earlier lunches received.

### **GUIDELINES FOR ALL CENTRAL 301 SCHOOLS**

1. Students who request a lunch will receive a Value Meal Lunch according to the student’s lunch status and the ability to pay or the amount of money owed for earlier lunches received. The Value Meal Lunch will be charged to the student’s lunch account.
2. Central 301 Schools will not provide a student with an alternative lunch that is different from the “meal of the day” served to the students.
3. Central 301 Schools may not prohibit or prevent a student from accessing the school’s lunch program.
4. If an elementary, middle or senior high student owes money for lunches that is more than the amount charged for five lunches, the Food Service District office will send Negative Balance emails weekly. This communication serves as a reminder to parents or guardians in order to collect owed money and to request that the parent or guardian apply for meal benefits in the National School Lunch Program.
5. Negative Lunch Balance Notices will be emailed to the parent on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.
6. Negative Lunch Balances shall be paid to MySchoolBucks.com.
7. If the amount owed for lunches by the student and payable to Central 301 Schools is no less than \$500 and the Food Service Office has sent Negative Lunch Balance emails in efforts to collect the debt from the student’s parent or guardian for at least one year. Central 301 Schools may seek assistance for collection under the State Comptroller Act.
8. Central 301 Schools: elementary, middle and senior high will not identify nor stigmatize a student who cannot pay for his or her lunch.

Central Community USD 301 schools will provide all students the Value Meal of the Day. Students from the Middle schools and the Central High School will not receive ala carte/snack items but will receive the Value Meal of the Day. The Value Meal of the Day includes: meat/meat alternate, breads-grains-pasta, vegetables, fruit and milk.

*Contact the Food Service Office with questions at 847-464-6043.*

Effective November, 2018.  
Updated November, 2022.