

## **EFAA - MEAL CHARGING**

*Category: Priority/Required by Law*

*See also JLCF, EF, EFA & EFE*

SAU#39 (Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Souhegan Cooperative School District) offers students delicious and healthy meals every school day. Unpaid lunch account debt places a financial burden on the Food Service Department, the School Districts, and ultimately the taxpayers of Amherst and Mont Vernon. The intent of this policy is to establish a fair and uniform procedure throughout the districts.

If students do not have money in their accounts or cash to pay for a meal, they are allowed to charge a complete breakfast or lunch. A complete meal is offered as a protein, a grain, a fruit, a vegetable, and a milk. A student must take at least three items (one of the items must be a fruit or vegetable). Charging for snacks or a la carte items is not allowed.

Parents are notified weekly of negative accounts via email (or letter) by the Kitchen Manager at each school. If an account is consistently delinquent, the Food Service Director will pursue collection of the debt. If a household debt cannot be repaid all at once, a repayment plan can be set in place.

SAU#39 (Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Souhegan Cooperative School District) does not offer alternative meals for students with negative accounts balances. Students with negative balances have access to the same complete meals as students with accounts in good standing.

### **Legal References**

*15 U.S.C. § 1692-1695 federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) 42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(6), Use or disclosure of information*

*Civil Rights Act of 1964 & 7 C.F.R. Part 15, Subpart A & B 2 C.F.R. §200.426*

*7 C.F.R §210.09*

*7 C.F.R §210.10*

*7 C.F.R §210.15*

*7 C.F.R. §245.5*

*USDA SP 46-2016 - No later than July 1, 2017, all SFA's operating the Federal school meal program are required to have a written meal charge policy.*

*USDA Guidance SP37-2016: Meaningful Access for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in the School Meal Programs*

*RSA 189:11-a*

*RSA 358-C, New Hampshire's Unfair, Deceptive or Unreasonable Collection Practices Act; NH Dept. of Education Technical Advisory - Food and Nutrition Programs*

Reviewed and Approved – October 22, 2018