

## What happens if my child has no lunch money?

**CREATE A SAFETY NET for your child by depositing extra money on their account so they can depend on a healthy meal at school every day!**

At Champ's Cafe, we believe in privacy and keeping account transactions confidential. Students "in debt" will be asked if they have brought money, as parents are expected pay for meals given as a courtesy when the child had no money.

We understand that a child may forget their money at home or leave it in the classroom, so UNLESS your child is deeply in debt, these policies are followed:

### **Middle School Student who has no lunch money: Punta Gorda Middle, LA Anger Middle Your Response when your child is "in debt" is important**

*Parent-Student communication becomes more critical at this age level. As 6th, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades gain independence in making healthy choices, they develop money management skills. Although our cashiers give guidance ("If you buy an extra milk, you won't have enough money for lunch tomorrow") it's ideal when parents have frequent conversations with their child about their food choices and account balance.*

The meal selected by your middle school-aged child on the day they do not have lunch money is given to them along with a reminder slip for payment is offered to them. (Did your child tell the cashier they did not need a reminder slip?)

If your middle school-aged child has no lunch money several days in a row, the Cashiers and Managers remind middle school students to ask their parent for money for the next day. They may offer for your child to call you from school. (Does your child's school have your home, work and cell numbers?)



There is a "TWO Meal LIMIT to charge" at the middle school level.  
**Middle school students can confidentially have a free or reduced-price meal, too!**  
Perhaps you should consider applying online for free or reduced-price meal benefits:

**[www.champs/yourcharlotteschools.net](http://www.champs/yourcharlotteschools.net)**

**Your Response when your child is "in debt" is Important**



If you do not send in a payment, a note or make a phone call to your child's Champ's Café Manager, the manager will meet with the Principal, Assistant Principal, Guidance Counselor and/or School Social Worker. One of these staff members will contact you to discuss your child's increasing debt, suggest your family apply for free or reduced-price meals, send a lunch from home and/or pay for future meals. **Whatever your choice to make sure your child has a nutritious meal each day in the future, please remember that the debt your child has already created must be paid.**

To encourage wise food choices, healthy eating and responsible money management, ala carte or extra purchases are limited in portion size, quantity and frequency of availability to school Champ's Cafe customers.

### **High School Student who has no lunch money: Charlotte High, Lemon Bay High and Port Charlotte High**

*Expectations are increased for the freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors to accept more responsibility for their personal money management, keeping a positive balance on their account.*



There is a "One Meal LIMIT to charge" at the high school level.  
If your high school-aged child is not already in debt, the meal selected by your child is given to them and they are asked to re-pay Champ's Cafe the very next day.  
If your child is already in debt, they may be asked if they would like to borrow money from a friend in order to obtain a lunch that day.

High school students can confidentially have a free or reduced-price meal, too!  
Perhaps you should consider



applying **online** for free or reduced-price meal benefits:

**[www.champs/yourcharlotteschools.net](http://www.champs/yourcharlotteschools.net)**



**Please remember: The debt your child has already created must be paid.**



## **Accommodations for Special Diet Needs:**

**Any aged-student who has no lunch money AND has a physical disability involving food:**

Students at any age level who have a disability where food is critical to their health or medication, such as diabetes, will be given a meal provided

the parent has PREVIOUSLY communicated this disability with the School Nurse.

Payment for the courtesy meal will be expected the next day.

**Any aged-student who has no lunch money AND has an intellectual disability:**

Any student who has a disability where they are unable to manage their money at the same level as their normal age level peers will be given a meal provided

the parent has PREVIOUSLY communicated this disability with the Champ's Cafe Manager.

Payment for the courtesy meal will be expected the next day.

*Champ's Cafe is at your service...*

**Encourage your child to "speak up"  
and ask the server, cashier or manager  
for what they need to be healthy!**



CEP "All free meals" Schools:

**All 10 Elementary Schools, Murdock Middle School, Port Charlotte Middle School, Charlotte Harbor Center, Baker Head Start Center and The Academy**

Currently, all students at the above 15 schools receive free breakfast and free lunch through CEP, the Community Eligibility Program. This means that no money is collected for meals but students can spend money on Smart Snacks at school. If a child has an account with a negative balance from a previous debt to Champ's Cafe, they cannot purchase ala carte items. Families are welcomed to bring a child's account to a zero or positive balance by paying a little at a time or paying the full amount with cash, check or via PayPAMS.