

Hackensack Meridian, Carrier Clinic

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Title: Process and Procedures for Outstanding Balances for Food Service Charges	Chapters: (S) East Mountain School #8550
Author: Director/Principal of East Mountain School/ Business Administrator of East Mountain School	Stakeholders: School Administration, Certificated, Non-Certificated Personnel, Parents
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References: N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21	Signature: Chief Hospital Executive

POLICY:

This policy is intended to provide a process and procedure for Outstanding Balances for Food Service Charges

PROCEDURES:

It is the policy of East Mountain School, Hackensack Meridian Health, Carrier Clinic to provide lunch for any student who, on occasion, may forget to bring their lunch, or money to purchase a meal at the school. When this occurs, East Mountain School will provide a meal with the expectation payment to be made as soon as possible, e.g. the next school day or soon after. East Mountain School, Hackensack Meridian Health, Carrier Clinic is also required to obtain payments for any lunch meal bills in arrears pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:33-21. We are also mindful there may be circumstances where payment cannot be made in a timely manner. East Mountain School, Hackensack Meridian Health, Carrier Clinic is willing to work with families to develop a plan for repayment.

East Mountain School, Hackensack Meridian Health, Carrier Clinic will enact a policy to secure payment for any lunch bill in arrears with the Director/Principal or designee first providing a lunch application, with a call to the parents/guardians as well.

East Mountain School, Hackensack Meridian Health, Carrier Clinic will expect payment, in full, within ten days. If the student's parents/guardians make payment to the school, another phone call will be followed up by an administrator and/or Child Study Team Member/counselor to assist the family. If payment is not made from the date of the second notice, the school will send written notice to the family.

Should a family continue non-payment to the school for their child's lunch bill, the Director/Principal or designee will require a meeting with the parent to resolve this matter.

If a parent or guardian refuses to meet or take steps to address the matter of resolving the bill payment, East Mountain School, Hackensack Meridian Health, Carrier Clinic personnel may seek the services from the County Board of Social Services and the Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency.

East Mountain School, Hackensack Meridian Health, Carrier Clinic will explore the causes for non-payment of a lunch bill in arrears. Should these outcomes appear to be abuse or neglect, the Principal or designee shall immediately report this suspicion to the Department of Children and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency as required in N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10.

In the past few school years the nation has endured a pandemic coupled with economic hardships faced by our student's families, as a result of job loss. Therefore, East Mountain School, Hackensack Meridian Health, Carrier Clinic team members will work diligently to support and facilitate the records and follow-up to qualify students for free and reduced lunch meals. There will be an ongoing assessment through the school year.

This Policy will be made available to parents of all Community Based Students attending East Mountain School, Hackensack Meridian Health, Carrier Clinic and will be posted on the school website.