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To the Parents & Guardians of Salem Public Schools Elementary & Middle School Students:

Last evening the Salem School Committee adopted a new policy on student payment for school meals. This new policy takes effect on Monday, March 16. **Please note that this new policy does not apply to students who receive free breakfast and lunch. It affects only students who pay for their meals.**

Under the policy adopted on March 9 there will be consequences when a child consistently does not pay for a breakfast or lunch, or both.

- A child who does not pay for meals up to a total of \$5.00 will be provided with regular meals. The failure to pay will be treated as an oversight. The Food Services office will try to contact the parent or guardian directly after the second meal has not been paid for.
- **After the amount a student owes exceeds \$5.00 the student will receive an alternative meal.** This will continue for up to ten more school days, or until full payment is made, whichever comes first. The Food Services office will contact parents or guardians in writing as well as attempt to contact them by phone after the third instance of a student's failure to pay.
- **If full payment of all that is owed, including for the alternative meals, is not received by the end of that ten day period then the student will not be able to receive a meal at school until everything the student owes is paid in full.** During that time the student's parent or guardian will be responsible for ensuring that the child is provided with food while at school.
- **School breakfast or lunch money that students owe from before March 16 will be carried forward on March 16.** Students who ask for a meal on March 16 and who owe \$5.00 or more for school meals they received before March 16 will get an alternative meal. The ten day period to pay in full will start for these students on March 16.

Over 100 Salem families owe more than \$5.00 for their child's meals at this time. Some owe much more than that. Nevertheless, most of the families whose children do not receive free meals pay for those meals regularly. We thank those families for keeping their child's account current.

Please contact the Director of Food Services (978-740-1231) if you have questions about this new policy. The complete new policy can be viewed on the Salem Public Schools' website. To view the website and the new policy please go to www.salemk12.org.

Sincerely,


Superintendent of Schools

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