

Gilmer ISD Food Service Department Prepay/Charge Policy Information

The goal of the Gilmer ISD Food Service Department is to offer a healthy, nutritious meal to every student and to operate within the guidelines and regulations that are set forth by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA).

We strongly encourage all families to apply for the Free/Reduced Meal Price Program. Every Gilmer ISD student will receive an application either at the beginning of the school year or when they are enrolled in the District.

Parents/guardians are responsible for the cost of student meals until the Free/Reduced Application is completed and approved. Gilmer ISD participates in the state's Direct Certification Program and receives reports from the state listing students who are pre-qualified through the program. A letter will be sent to the household of children who qualify for free meals through the Direct Certification Program. If your household qualifies and you do not receive a letter for each school-aged child in your home, please contact the Food Service Department.

All students who receive free/reduced price meals are required by law to take the full meal tray. Students may purchase individual items (milk, meat, rolls, etc) at the ala carte price.

Meal prices for those who do not qualify for the Free/Reduced Meal Price Program are:

- Elementary, Intermediate, Jr. High and Sr. High Breakfast - No charge – every student may have one (1) free breakfast.
- Elementary and Intermediate Lunch - \$ 2.75
- Jr. and Sr. High School Lunch - \$ 3.00

For those who prefer to bring a meal from home and would like a cold drink, they may purchase milk for \$.50 at all campuses. Other beverages are sold at the Intermediate, Jr. High and Sr. High campuses for different dollar amounts according to the item. We also sell an assortment of snack items. The pricing for those items will be listed at the serving lines and on the Gilmer ISD web page.

Gilmer ISD has established a Charge Policy (see below) in order to give students an opportunity to charge meals should they forget to bring lunch money and have no credit on their cafeteria account. All charges are the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Gilmer ISD Charge Policy

- Elementary and Intermediate may charge up to 5 meals.
- Jr. and Sr. High may charge up to 3 meals.
- There will be no charging for snack or ala carte items.
- In addition to low and negative balance notices being sent home weekly, the parent/guardian will receive an e-mail alert when their student account balance reaches \$5.00 or less. The parent/guardian will receive a phone call to inform them that the student will be receiving a lower cost meal until the charges are paid. A lower cost meal will consist of a sandwich, a serving of fruit and a serving of milk.
- If your child has a charge, he/she will not be allowed to purchase snack items until charges are paid.
- Students that have reached their maximum charge limit will be instructed in private to select the lower cost meal.
- At the beginning of May each year, all charging will be stopped to give the child nutrition department ample time to collect monies owed on all student accounts.
- Gilmer ISD will work with families, on a case by case basis to develop a payment plan, if necessary, to pay back meal charge debt.

Students or parents/guardians may prepay for meals with cash or check (no credit/debit cards) at any of the serving lines. Payments may also be made online at MySchoolBucks.com with check or credit card. When using the online system, you will be able to set up the student's account to send an e-mail notification when the balance reaches a certain dollar amount. You may also monitor the activity on a student account through MySchoolBucks.com. If at any time you need a printout of a student account, you may request it from the Food Service Department.