

**À LA CARTE FOOD PROGRAM**

Separate à la carte sales are authorized for students and staff when school facilities for such sales are available, subject to San Diego County Environmental Health Department requirements. Selection of items for the à la carte program shall be the responsibility of the Director of Food and Nutrition and shall comply with federal and state nutrition standards. Students must pay cash or have sufficient funds in their school lunch account to purchase à la carte food items. Charging à la carte items is not authorized.

**Elementary Schools:** To encourage young students to consume complete meals, elementary à la carte sales will be limited to milk, juice, bottled water, and Smart Snack items. These items are sold to students who bring lunch to school or to students who want an additional item with their school meal. Parents must provide approval for elementary school students to purchase à la carte items.

**Middle and High Schools:** In addition to the School Meals Program, an expanded a la carte service is available to students and adult staff. À la carte items are intended to supplement rather than replace full meals purchased at school or brought from home.

**À la Carte Prices:** Pricing of à la carte food and beverage items shall be sufficient to cover the cost of maintaining the self-sufficient status of the Food and Nutrition Program. This includes, but is not limited to, the cost of food, labor, supplies, indirect costs, and overhead costs.

A reimbursable “offer versus serve” meal sold at the unit price and claimed for reimbursement shall be priced lower than the total of the a la carte prices of the same items.

**Second School Meal Prices:** The first breakfast or lunch served to a student is reimbursable; the second is an à la carte sale. Second school meals are non-reimbursable meals and are considered à la carte sales because they are not subsidized by federal and state funds. The charge for second meals shall be higher than the first meal charge, and high enough to recover all meal costs without the federal and state subsidy (which is the adult sale price).

**Blocks on Accounts:** Parents may submit a written request or email the Food and Nutrition Director or designee to place a block on their child’s account to prohibit the purchase of à la carte items.