

# Athens Area Schools

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[www.athensk12.org](http://www.athensk12.org)

January 7, 2019

Dear Parents,

Approximately five (5) years ago we changed to the Skyward student management system for our district. This system has many great features that help us as a district but it also has some that do not fit our needs well. One of those items that does not serve us well is the Food Service Module. Every year we have had some problem with student's account balances when we transition from the previous school year to the new school year. This is very frustrating for the families that have their balances listed for an incorrect amount and for the district that has to go through to hand calculate accounts to ensure the amount is correct. Because of this we will be changing our software program for student lunch accounting at the end of the semester, which is January 18, 2019.

We will start using a program called Meal Magic. It serves the same function as the Food Service Module in Skyward but it will keep the independent record of transactions for each student. We have configured Meal Magic so that it can communicate back to Skyward the student balances so they can still be viewed in Parent Connect, but not the specific details of what days your student ate lunch or breakfast. Those details will be kept in Meal Magic and will have to be accessed through an account specific to this program. We will provide the links to create Meal Magic accounts on both the district website and send them out on the district Facebook account for your convenience.

I know it can be frustrating to have yet another login and website to deal with, but there is a benefit to you that will be available in the next couple of months. With Meal Magic we will be able to set up a method that you can make online payments to your child's food service account via electronic transfers. No longer will you have to put money or checks in envelopes and send them to school in a backpack. However, you will still have that option if you so choose.

I appreciate everyone's understanding as we transition over to Meal Magic. Our goal is to resolve the issues we have experienced and improve service to our families. Thank you very much and I hope everyone had a good Holiday Break.

Sincerely,



Joseph C Huepenbecker  
Athens Area Schools