

MYNUTRIKIDS.COM ECHECK PAYMENTS

The MyNutrikids.com® web service allows parents to make online deposits into their children's school meal accounts. This web service partners with PayPal™ to handle the payment processing for convenience and security. Therefore, the payment types accepted by MyNutrikids.com are directly tied to those accepted by PayPal. Currently, PayPal accepts payments from PayPal accounts, credit cards, debit cards, and eChecks. Regardless of the method of payment selected, the processing of the payment is done by PayPal and a payment confirmation is emailed to the payer, once PayPal has properly processed the payment.

Payments that are made through MyNutrikids.com using a PayPal account, credit card, or debit card are cleared almost instantaneously and set to a "pending import" status. The next time the school performs an import of payments, all payments that are set in a pending status are downloaded and deposited into the children's school meal accounts.

What is an eCheck?

An eCheck is the electronic equivalent of a paper check and is therefore subject to the same requirements for clearance. When an eCheck payment is made, an Electronic Funds Transfer withdraws money from the payer's bank account. Although the payer's online bank account statement will almost instantaneously have an entry for the held payment, the actual funds are not withdrawn until the Electronic Funds Transfer has cleared. With MyNutrikids.com, payments that are made with eChecks are not marked as "pending import" until the Electronic Funds Transfer has been completed and the payment has cleared. While this means that the school district would not receive the electronic equivalent of a bounced check, it does mean that parents who pay with eChecks need to factor in the time it takes for their checks to clear.

How long will it take an eCheck to post into the children's school meal account?

When an eCheck payment is made from a U.S. bank account, the payment is held for 3 to 4 business days* until the Electronic Funds Transfer has cleared.

When a bank account from another country is used to make an eCheck payment, the payment is held 7 to 9 business days* until the Electronic Funds Transfer has cleared.

* If the initial Electronics Funds Transfer is declined by the payer's bank, there may be an additional delay of up to 7 business days.

Using eChecks effectively with MyNutrikids.com.

To clarify the use of eChecks within MyNutrikids.com, we have listed a few options below that are available to the payer:

LOW BALANCE EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

Any eCheck payment that is made will not be available for use at the school until the Electronic Funds Transfer has cleared and the payment has been imported into the school's point of sale system. Therefore, to prevent the account from reaching a zero balance before the payment has cleared, the payer should factor in the estimated clearance times when making eCheck payments. The best method to do this is to set up the low balance email reminders that are available within MyNutriKids.com. By defining a higher notification balance amount for these messages, the payer may be notified a few days in advance that their child's balance is running low and can make an eCheck payment accordingly.

Example:

Emily is a student who eats school lunches every school day. The price for the school lunch is \$1.50. Therefore, if the expected clearing time for an eCheck is 4 to 7 business days, the recommended email balance notification level should be set to \$12.00 (7 days x \$1.50 plus \$1.50 for the current day).

This should ensure that Emily's account would not reach a zero balance before an eCheck payment has cleared.

BACKUP FUNDING SOURCE

If the payer has a PayPal account, that account may be set up to have a credit card registered as a backup funding source for the eCheck payment. What this means is that the payer may continue to use their bank account as the primary source of payment but the credit card would be charged if the bank account balance was non-sufficient. Therefore, although the payment is still an eCheck, because it has a backup funding source it is not subject to the additional clearing days mentioned above.

OTHER PAYMENT SOURCE

If the options mentioned above and/or additional clearing time is deemed unacceptable by the payer, we recommend that an alternate method of payment be used such as a PayPal account or debit/credit card.