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Description

The parents of students at a Utah school that threw away the lunches of students who owed money on their accounts speak out on Facebook, saying the school's actions were "pathetic" and "disgusting."

Keywords

Utah, Public School, School Lunch, Debt, Salt Lake City, Lunch, Money, Todd Weiler, Uintah Elementary School, Sophia Isom, Erika Lukes, Jason Olsen, Salt Lake City School District, Account, School Districts, Embarassed, Humiliated, School

Citation

MLA

APA

Parents to School: Don't Discard Our Kids Lunches

**NATALIE MORALES**, anchor:
In Salt Lake City this week there is outrage and embarrassment after school kids had their lunches literally pulled from their hands because their parents were behind in their lunch money accounts. NBC’s Mike Taibbi has more.

**TODD WEILER**: That-- that’s indefensible. It’s-- it’s egregious and I--

**MIKE TAIBBI**, reporting:
Politicians, including State Senator Todd Weiler, called it an outrage. Parents of children attending Salt Lake City’s Uintah Elementary School have lit up Facebook with words like pathetic, disgusted and shame. How could anyone take the lunches out of the hands of between thirty and forty kids, and then throw those lunches away because their parents had zero or negative balances in their student meal accounts? Food thrown away, the school said, because once it’s served to a student it can’t be given to anyone else. Students like fifth-grader Sophia Isom.

**SOPHIA ISOM** (Student): Well, she was like since you don’t have any money in your account, you can’t get lunch.

**TAIBBI**: Parents like her mom, Erica Lukes.

**ERICA LUKES**: There were lots of tears and it was pretty upsetting for them to have that happen.

**TAIBBI**: The school district apologized for the embarrassing and humiliating situation. The children having their trays of pizza, salad and peaches taken at the register and replaced by milk and a piece of fruit.

**JASON OLSEN** (Salt Lake City School District): This was a mistake. This-- this was handled wrong.

**TAIBBI**: School officials say that from now on they’ll make sure parents are properly informed if their meals accounts are deficient and that kids won’t have their lunches taken from them again. Mike Taibbi, NBC News, Los Angeles.