

Book	Policy Manual
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8500 - FOOD SERVICES

The Board of Education shall provide cafeteria facilities in all school facilities where space and facilities permit and will provide food service for the purchase and consumption of meals for all students. The Board shall also provide a breakfast program in accordance with procedures established by the Department of Education and Workforce ("DEW"). The Board shall annually encumber the funds needed to operate the program.

The food service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the selection, preparation, delivery, consumption, and disposal of food and beverages including, but not limited to, the current United States Department of Agriculture's ("USDA") school meal pattern requirements and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, as well as to the fiscal management of the program.

Further, the food service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the fiscal management of the program as well as all the requirements pertaining to food service hiring and food service manager/operator licensure and certification. In addition, as required by law, a food safety program based on the principles of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point ("HACCP") system shall be implemented with the intent of preventing food-borne illnesses. For added safety and security, access to the facility and the food stored and prepared therein shall be limited to food service staff and other authorized persons.

The Board shall approve and implement nutrition standards governing the types of food and beverages that may be sold on the premises of its schools and shall specify the time and place each type of food or beverage may be sold. In adopting such standards, the Board shall:

- A. consider the nutritional value of each food or beverage;
- B. consult with a dietitian licensed under R.C. Chapter 4759, a dietetic technician registered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration, or a school nutrition specialist certified or credentialed by the School Nutrition Association;
- C. consult and incorporate to the maximum extent possible the dietary guidelines for Americans jointly developed by the USDA and the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and
- D. consult and incorporate the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines.

The District's food service program shall serve only food items and beverages determined by the Food Service Department to be in compliance with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines. Any competitive food items and beverages that are available for sale to students a la carte in the dining area between midnight and thirty (30) minutes following the end of the school day shall also comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines, and may only be sold in accordance with Board Policy 8550 - Competitive Food Sales. Foods and beverages not associated with the food service program may be vended in accordance with the rules and regulations set forth in Board Policy 8540 - Vending Machines.

The Superintendent will require that the food service program serve foods in the schools of the District that are wholesome and nutritious and reinforce the concepts taught in the classroom.

The Superintendent is responsible for implementing the food service program in accordance with the adopted nutrition standards and shall provide a report to the Board at one of its regular meetings, annually, regarding the District's compliance with the standards. The Superintendent shall ensure that the District's vendors and/or food service management contractor is provided a copy of this policy and any implementing guidelines and that any pertinent agreements are consistent with this policy and any implementing guidelines.

No food or beverage may be sold on any school premises except in accordance with the standards approved by the Board.

During all times while the food service program is operating and students are being served food, at least one (1) employee shall be present in the area in which the food is being consumed who has received instruction in methods to prevent choking and demonstrated an ability to perform the Heimlich maneuver.

Dietary Modifications

Modifications Based on Compliant Medical Documentation

An adult student or student's parent requesting special dietary accommodations for a student with a disability that restricts the diet must provide the Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs signed by a State authorized medical authority, which is a medical professional authorized in the State of Ohio to write prescriptions. The request must contain the following information:

- A. an explanation of how the student's physical or mental impairment restricts the diet;
- B. the food(s)/type(s) of foods to be avoided;
- C. the food(s)/type(s) of foods to be substituted;
- D. additional pertinent information, if any, that will assist in accommodating the student's needs.

If a Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs is incomplete, unclear, or lacks sufficient detail, the Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator or Food Service Director shall request that the student or parent/guardian request that the medical authority supplement the response so that a safe meal can be provided.

A special dietary accommodation for a student who has a disability that restricts the student's diet must be supported by a Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs, which should be submitted to the Food Service Supervisor who shall serve as the Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator.

A student with a disability may have an IEP or 504 plan that requires specific instruction, services, or accommodation related to the student's nutritional needs. If a student's IEP or 504 plan contains the same information that is required on a Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs, then it is not necessary to obtain and submit a separate Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs.

The individual making an initial request for such substitutions must inform the Food Service Director or Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator that the student has a disability that restricts the student's diet. The School District will honor the request upon receipt of the required documentation from a State-authorized medical authority. If the Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator is unable to grant a requested accommodation following receipt of the medical authority's statement, the student or parent shall be provided with an explanation of the basis for the decision. Compliant requests shall be immediately implemented.

Disability Accommodation Grievance Procedure

The following procedure is intended to provide prompt and equitable resolution to any concern or disagreement regarding the food service program's administration of meal modifications made or requested on the basis of a student's disability. None of the procedures described in this policy section shall prevent a student or parent from pursuing a complaint with any State or Federal agency, including the USDA, using the procedures described at the end of this policy.

- A. If an initial request for accommodation in the form of substituted meals is denied, the student or parent may request review of that decision by the Building Director and shall provide any communications between the student or parent and food service officials concerning the accommodation request, any documentation provided by a medical authority, and any additional information the student or parent believes is pertinent to the decision. A review of the materials provided and of the initial decision shall be completed and a response provided to the student or parent as soon as practicable following receipt of the request for review. If the initial decision is reversed, including due to additional information provided on review, the dietary accommodations shall be implemented

without delay. If the initial decision is affirmed, the decision is final.

- B. Any other complaint or disagreement with the food service administration concerning implementation of special dietary accommodations based on a student's disability shall be presented to the Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator. The student or parent shall specify the nature of the concern and any requested remedy in writing. The Coordinator shall promptly review the grievance and either contact the student or parent for any required clarification of the request or to seek to reach an agreement regarding how to best address the concern. If no agreement is reached, the Coordinator shall make a determination and notify the student or parent in writing as soon as practicable. If the grievance is affirmed in any respect, the Coordinator shall propose a plan for implementing appropriate remedial measures. If the student or parent is dissatisfied with the Coordinator's determination, the student or parent may submit a written request to the Building Director or Superintendent for review. The administrator's determination shall be final.

IMPLEMENTATION AND DISCONTINUATION

Review

Upon receipt of a request for a special dietary accommodation, the Food Service Director or Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator shall review the request to ensure it is supported as required by Federal law and District policy and if not, shall request additional or clarifying information from the student or parent making the request.

Implementation

When the need for a special dietary accommodation is supported by a Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs signed by a State authorized medical authority, the District will offer a reasonable modification that effectively accommodates the student's disability. Following USDA Child Nutrition Program regulations, the School District may consider factors such as cost and efficiency and is not required to prepare a specific meal, provide a specific brand of food, or provide a meal beyond the meals provided to other students.

For students who have an IEP or 504 plan that requires specific food-related accommodations, the School District shall provide the accommodation as required by law, seeking clarifying medical information, as necessary.

A special dietary request will be approved and implemented upon submission of a completed authorized Medical Statement.

Student Absence

If a student receiving a special dietary accommodation is absent or does not wish to participate in school lunch on a day an accommodation is planned, the student or parent shall contact the Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator by 9:00 a.m. the same day.

Renewing A Special Dietary Request

An authorized Medical Statement does not need to be updated annually. However, the Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator may annually seek clarification or updates on special dietary requests.

Discontinuation of a Special Dietary Request

A special dietary request or part of a request may be discontinued by a parent by submitting the request in writing to the Special Dietary Accommodation Coordinator or shall be discontinued consistent with the medical authorities' recommendation provided with the Medical Statement for Special Dietary Needs.

Meal Charges

Meals sold by the school may be purchased by students and staff members and community residents in accordance with administrative guidelines established by the Superintendent. Meals may be made available, free of charge, to senior citizens who are serving as volunteers to the District.

The operation and supervision of the food service program shall be the responsibility of the Food Service Supervisor. In accordance with Federal law, the Food Service Supervisor shall take such actions as are necessary to obtain a minimum of two (2) food safety inspections per school year, which are conducted by the State or local governmental agency responsible for food safety inspections. The report of the most recent inspection will be posted in a publicly visible location, and a copy of the report will be available upon request.

A periodic review of the food service accounts shall be made by the Food Service Supervisor. Any surplus funds from the National School Lunch Program or the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-296) shall be used to reduce the cost of the service to students or to purchase cafeteria equipment. Surplus funds from a-la-carte foods may accrue to the food service program.

Bad Debt

Bad debt incurred through the inability to collect lunch payment from students is not an allowable cost chargeable to any Federal program. Any related collection cost, including legal cost, arising from such bad debt after they have been determined to be uncollectable are also unallowable. District efforts to collect bad debt shall be in accordance with Policy 6152 - Student Fees, Fines, and Charges.

Bad debt is uncollectable/delinquent debt that has been determined to be uncollectable no sooner than the end of the school year in which the debt was incurred and after the Superintendent determines that sufficient reasonable effort and approaches to collecting the debt have been made. If the uncollectable/delinquent debt cannot be recovered by the School Meals Program in the year when the debt was incurred, then this is classified as bad debt. Once classified as bad debt, non-Federal funding sources must reimburse the NSFSA for the total amount of the bad debt. The funds may come from the District general fund, State or local funding, school or community organizations such as the PTA, or any other non-Federal source. Once the uncollectable/delinquent debt charges are converted to bad debt, records relating to those charges must be maintained in accordance with the record retention requirements in 7 C.F.R. 210.9(b) (17) and 7 C.F.R. 210.15(b).

Negative Account Balances

Students will be permitted to purchase meals from the District's food service using either cash on hand or a food service account. A student may be allowed to incur a negative food service account balance subject to the following conditions.

Students may be permitted to accumulate negative food service account balance not to exceed an amount equal to one (1) school week of regular meal price

Students who have qualified for Free lunches are still responsible for paying off any debt that was incurred prior to qualifying for free lunches.

This policy and any implementing guidelines shall be provided in writing to all households at the start of each school year and to households transferring to the school or School District during the year. The policy and implementing guidelines will also be provided to all District staff with responsibility for enforcing the policies.

With regard to the operation of the school food service program, the Superintendent shall require:

- A. the maintenance of sanitary, neat premises free from fire and health hazards;
- B. the preparation of food that complies with Federal food safety regulations;
- C. the planning and execution of menus in compliance with USDA requirements;
- D. the purchase of food and supplies in accordance with State and Federal law, USDA regulations, and Board policy; (see Policy 1130, Policy 1200, Policy 3113, Policy 3210, Policy 3214, Policy 4113, Policy 4210, Policy 4214, and Policy 6460)
- E. complying with food holds and recalls in accordance with USDA regulations;
- F. the administration, accounting, and disposition of food service funds pursuant to Federal and State law and USDA regulations;
- G. the safekeeping and storage of food and food equipment pursuant to State and Federal law and USDA regulations;
- H. the regular maintenance and replacement of equipment;
- I. all District employees whose salaries are paid for with USDA funds or non-Federal funds used to meet a match or cost-share requirement must comply with the District's time and effort record-keeping policy (see Policy 6116).

In accordance with the nutritional standards adopted by the Board, the placement of vending machines in any classroom where students are provided instruction unless the classroom is also used to serve meals to students is prohibited.

42 U.S.C. 1758

Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 and Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.

OMB Circular No. A-87USDA Smart Snacks in School Food Guidelines (effective July 1, 2014)

SP 32-2015 Statements Supporting Accommodations for Children with Disabilities in the Child Nutrition Programs