

Food Services Program

A food services program may be provided *directly* by the School or may be provided *indirectly* by a company that has entered into a contract with the Governing Authority. The food services program shall comply with all state and federal regulations regarding the management of the program, such as fiscal management, menu planning, food preparation and food disposal. If the food service program is provided by a contracted company, the contracted company shall be responsible for ensuring that the menu meets or exceeds all federal and state regulations regarding nutritional and dietary requirements.

Unless provided otherwise, all students shall remain on school property during the lunch period. During the lunch period, staff members, or their permitted designees will be responsible for supervising the students. At least one employee who has received instruction in methods to prevent choking and has demonstrated an ability to perform the Heimlich maneuver shall be present at all times when students are being served food. If any or all students are permitted to leave school property during lunch, the students shall adhere to all applicable rules or guidelines established by the School.

If the food services program has a special rate for students, then staff members and other adults are prohibited, according to government regulations, from purchasing a lunch at this special rate.

Cross-Reference: Policy 2120, Federal Nutrition Programs; Policy 2130, Wellness Policy; Policy 2140, Nutritional Standards; Policy 2150, State Nutritional Guidelines; Policy 2250, Known Food Allergies; Policy 2310, Hand Washing Requirements; Policy 2320, Personal Safety; Policy 2330, Equipment Safety.

Federal Nutrition Programs

The Governing Authority recognizes that adequate nutrition is a necessary component for each student's education and success. Accordingly, free or reduced price breakfasts and lunches, as well as free milk, will be offered to all students who qualify. Qualification standards are based upon the most recent criteria established by the Child Nutrition Program and National School Lunch Act and issued by the Ohio Department of Education.

The Head Administrator is responsible for directing and overseeing the free and reduced-price meal program and the free milk program. The Head Administrator shall ensure the program complies with the standards below.

- Ensure that each student receives an application at the beginning of each school year or when the student enrolls after the start of the school year. This application shall serve as a notification to each student's family regarding the availability of the programs, the eligibility requirements, and the application process.
- Ensure that all applications are received and processed in a timely manner as required by law.
- Establish and implement any procedures and policies necessary to ensure that the free and reduced-price meal program and the free milk program operate efficiently and in accordance with all applicable regulations.
- Submit all necessary paperwork or other documentation to the School Food Service Division of the State Department of Education on a timely basis.

Federal: 42 U.S.C. § 1751.

Cross-Reference: Policy 2110, Food Services Program; Policy 2130, Wellness Policy; Policy 2140, Nutritional Standards; Policy 2150, State Nutritional Guidelines.

Wellness Policy

The School recognizes that a healthy lifestyle is an important part of success in education and in life, and that there is a strong correlation between students who lead healthy lifestyles and students who complete their formal education. The School also recognizes that it is important for staff members to make healthy lifestyle choices, not only to improve their health and job performance, but also to serve as effective role models for students. Accordingly, the Governing Authority hereby adopts the following general guidelines to be used, in conjunction with any federal or state regulations or other Policies, in establishing and implementing programs and activities regarding nutrition and general wellness.

Nutritional Guidelines

All food available in the School during the school day shall serve the objectives of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity. Pursuant to this:

- all foods shall be served in appropriate serving sizes, as determined by the USDA;
- all beverages sold on school premises must comply with all statewide standards as discussed in Policy 2140, Nutritional Standards.
- when selecting foods to be served a la carte, foods shall be nutritious and conform with state guidelines and standards;
- when possible, food choices shall be appealing and attractive to children and made after considering the opinions and suggestions of an advisory group consisting of students, parents, staff, and other members of the community;
- when selecting foods, a preference should be expressed for foods that are high in fiber and low in added fats, sugar, and sodium;
- when selecting foods which will be reimbursed pursuant to a state or federal program, foods shall be selected which meet the program requirements, but no additional or more restrictive requirements shall be placed on the food selection;

Physical Activity Opportunities

Physical activity shall be designed to promote student wellness and shall be a part of the School curriculum. The Physical activity opportunities shall be designed to accomplish a goal of promoting an active, fit lifestyle. There are several ways these can be accomplished including, but not limited to, the following:

- physical education class, consisting of both physical activity and education;
- integrating physical education and physical activities across the curricula as possible;
- physical education class that promotes participation in physical activity beyond the school environment;
- extracurricular activities offered on a regular, recurring basis; and
- other School-wide activities offered on a regular, recurring basis.

Nutrition & Health Education

The School is committed to furthering this Wellness Policy through nutrition and health education. Nutrition education shall be designed to promote healthy lifestyle choices and the importance of nutrition. This goal may be accomplished by the following:

- including instruction about nutrition, physical exercise, and disease prevention as a part of the Health curriculum;

Health Screenings

Prior to the first day of November of the school year in which a student is enrolled for the first time in either kindergarten or first grade, the student shall be screened for hearing, vision, speech and communications, health and medical problems, or for any developmental disorders. The School should send information to the parents of the student prior to the first day of August of the school year in which the Student qualifies for screening.

The School may conduct the screening or may contract with any person or governmental entity, or may request the parent to obtain any such screening elements. If the School requests the parent to obtain any screening services, the School shall provide the parent with lists of providers and information about screening services available in the community to parents who cannot afford them.

Any parent requested to obtain any screening services may sign a written statement to the effect that he or she does not wish to have his or her child receive a screening.

If the results of any screening reveal the possibility of special learning needs, the School shall conduct a further assessment in accordance with Chapter 3323 of the Revised Code (Education of Children with Disabilities).

Ohio: R.C. 3313.673, R.C. 3314.03(A)(11)(d).

Cross-Reference: Policy 3740, Child Find Responsibilities.