

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (LUNCH AND BREAKFAST)/
SCHOOL DISTRICT NUTRITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

School Food Service Program (Lunch and Breakfast)

The Board has entered into an agreement with the New York State Education Department to participate in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and/or Special Milk Program to receive commodities donated by the Department of Agriculture and to accept responsibility for providing free and reduced price meals to elementary and secondary students in the schools of the District.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall have the responsibility to carry out the rules of the School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. The determination of which students are eligible is the responsibility of the Superintendent or his/her designee. Appeals regarding eligibility should be submitted to the Hearing Official of the District.

Free or reduced price meals may be allowed for qualifying students attending District schools upon receipt of a written application from the student's parent or guardian or a "Direct Certification" letter from the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). Applications will be provided by the School District to all families.

Procedures for the administration of the free and reduced price meal program of this School District will be the same as those prescribed in current state and federal laws and regulations.

Child Nutrition Program/Charging Meals

Although not required by law, because of the District's participation in the Child Nutrition Program, the Board of Education approves the establishment of a system to allow a student to charge a meal.

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While it is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to provide their child with adequate funding to stay current with their meal accounts, we must never forget our overarching concern is the well-being of the child. Therefore, in those instances when children's meal accounts are depleted, great care should be taken to not embarrass the child and continue to take care of his/her nutritional needs.

When a meal account is depleted, the child is to be provided a reimbursable meal. The meal "charge" shall be noted but there shall never be any comment made to the child (particularly in the presence of other children). When a student accumulates a \$2.25 balance, school messenger notifies the household of the charge balance. When an account reaches a \$5.00 charge balance, food services personnel shall contact the parents to advise them of the situation. It is permissible to send a note home with the child at the end of the day which alerts the parent of the charges. If non-payment for charges persists, food services personnel shall make contact with the family to see if they qualify for free or reduced price meals and involve school leadership.

Restriction of Sweetened Foods in School

Per school nutrition guidelines, the sale of sweetened foods will be prohibited from the beginning of the school day until the end of the last scheduled meal period.

Sweetened foods consist of sweetened soda water, chewing gum, candy, including hard candy, jellies, gum, marshmallow candies, fondant, licorice, spun candy, candy coated popcorn, and water ices except those which contain fruit or fruit juices.

Restrictions on Sale of Milk Prohibited

Schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program may not directly or indirectly restrict the sale or marketing of fluid milk products at any time or in any place on school premises or at school-sponsored events.

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**SUBJECT: SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (LUNCH AND BREAKFAST)/
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Food Substitutions for Children with Disabilities

Federal regulations governing the operation of Child Nutrition Programs, Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 require that children with disabilities be offered the opportunity to participate in all academic and non-academic activities including the school nutrition programs. The District will make reasonable accommodations to those children with disabilities whose disabilities restrict their diets, such as providing substitutions and/or modifications in the regular meal patterns. Such meal substitutions for students with disabilities will be offered at no extra charge. A student with a disability must be provided substitutions in food when that need is supported by a statement signed by a physician attesting to the need for the substitutions and recommending alternate foods.

However, the school food service is not required to provide meal services (for example, School Breakfast Program) to students with disabilities when the meal service is not normally available to the general student body, unless a meal service is required under the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 Accommodation Plan as mandated by a physician's written instructions.

Food Substitutions for Nondisabled Children

Though not required, the District will also allow substitutions for non-disabled children who are unable to consume the regular meal because of medical or other special dietary needs if the request is supported by a statement signed by a recognized medical authority.

The District may also allow substitutions for fluid milk with a non-dairy beverage that is nutritionally equivalent (as established by the Secretary of Agriculture) to fluid milk and meets nutritional standards for students who are unable to consume fluid milk because of medical or other special dietary needs if the request is supported by a statement signed by a recognized medical authority or by the student's parent/legal guardian.

School District Nutrition Advisory (Health and Safety) Committee

In accordance with Education Law, the District has established a Child Nutrition Advisory Committee. The Committee includes, but is not limited to, a representative of the School Board; the food preparation staff; the physical education departments; the school registered professional nurse or health staff; a registered dietitian, if available; the faculty of the District; the parent-teacher associations in the District; the students enrolled in the District; and the parents/guardians of students enrolled in the District.

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If, due to special circumstances, it is impossible or impracticable for all recommended groups to have members on the Committee for representation, the District may approve a Committee that, to the greatest extent possible, represents the interests of the aforementioned groups.

Prior to the start of school in the fall, the District will send in a newsletter written notice to all parents/guardians of enrolled students of the existence of the School District Nutrition (Health and Safety) Advisory Committee and supply information as to how interested parents/guardians may participate on the Committee. The District will also, to the extent practicable, give notice to all parents/guardians and students through its regular newsletters or other regular forms of written communication as to the scheduled dates of all meetings of the Advisory Committee.

The Committee will study all facets of the current nutritional policies of the District including, but not limited to:

- a) The goals of the District to promote health and proper nutrition;
- b) Vending machine sales;
- c) Menu criteria;
- d) Educational curriculum teaching healthy nutrition;
- e) Educational information provided to parents/guardians regarding healthy nutrition and the health risks associated with obesity;
- f) Opportunities offered to parents/guardians to encourage healthier eating habits to students;
- g) The education provided to teachers and other staff as to the importance of healthy nutrition.

In addition, the Committee shall consider recommendations and practices of other districts and nutrition studies.

Child Nutrition Act 1966
42 United States Code (USC) Section 1771 et seq.
Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act 1946
42 United States Code (USC) Section 1751 et seq.
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
29 United States Code (USC) Section 794 et seq.
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
20 United States Code (USC) Sections 1400-1485
7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 15B and 210
Education Law Sections 902(b), 915, 918, 1604(28),
1709(22), 1709(23) and 2503(9)(a)
8 New York Code of Rules and Regulations
(NYCRR) Sections 200.2(b)(1) and 200.2(b)(2)