

Lower Merion School District

Policy No.:	812
Section:	OPERATIONS
Title:	NUTRITIONAL SERVICES
Date Adopted:	6/13/16
Date Last Revised:	1/10/25; 3/19/18

812 NUTRITIONAL SERVICES

Purpose

The Board recognizes that students require adequate, nourishing food and beverages in order to grow, learn and maintain good health. The Board directs that students shall be provided with adequate space and time to eat meals during the school day.

Authority

The food service program shall be operated in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, as well as federal guidelines established by the Child Nutrition Division of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The District shall ensure that, in the operation of the food service program, no student, staff member, or other individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

Food sold by the school may be purchased by students and District employees for school-related purposes. The price charged to students shall be established annually by the District in compliance with state and federal laws.

Nonprogram food shall be priced to generate sufficient revenues to cover the cost of such items. A nonprogram food shall be defined as a food or beverage, other than reimbursable meals sold at the school and is purchased using funds from the child nutrition account. Nonprogram foods include but are not limited to adult meals and a-la-carte items. All revenue from the sale of nonprogram food shall accrue to the child nutrition program account.

Delegation of Responsibility

Operation and supervision of the food service program shall be the responsibility of the Director of Nutritional Services.

Cafeterias shall be operated on a nonprofit basis. A periodic review of the cafeteria accounts shall be made by the Business Manager and/or the District's independent financial auditor. The Business Manager or Director of Nutritional Services shall present to the Board annually a copy of the independent audit report.

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The Director of Nutritional Services shall ensure that school meals meet the standards required by the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs.

The Superintendent or their designee shall comply with state and federal requirements for conducting cafeteria health and safety inspections and ensuring employee participation in appropriate inspection services and training programs.

The Superintendent or their designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians, and employees concerning the contents of this Policy and applicable Administrative Regulations. Notification shall include information related to nondiscrimination.

Guidelines

To reinforce the District's commitment to nutrition and student wellness, foods served in school cafeterias shall:

1. Be carefully selected to contribute to students' nutritional health and well-being.
2. Meet the nutrition standards specified in law and regulations and approved by the Board.
3. Be prepared by methods that will retain nutritive quality, appeal to students, and foster lifelong healthy eating habits.
4. Be served in age-appropriate quantities, at reasonable prices.

All funds derived from the operation, maintenance or sponsorship of the food service program shall be deposited in the Food Service fund, in the same manner as other District funds. Such funds shall be expended in the manner approved and directed by the Board, but no amount shall be transferred from the Food Service fund to any other account or fund; however, District advances to the food service program may be returned to the District's general fund from any surplus resulting from its operation.

Surplus accounts shall be used only for the improvement and maintenance of the cafeteria.

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Procurement

Procurement of goods or services for the food service program shall meet the requirements of applicable law, regulations and Board Policy and Administrative Regulations.

Free/Reduced-Price Meals

The District shall provide free and reduced-price meals to students in accordance with the terms and conditions of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

Accommodating Students With Special Dietary Needs

The District shall make appropriate food service and/or meal accommodations to students with special dietary needs in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board Policy.

School Food Safety Inspections

The District shall obtain two (2) safety inspections per year in accordance with local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

The District shall post the most recent inspection report and release a copy of the report to members of the public upon request to the extent required by law.

School Food Safety Program

The District shall comply with federal requirements in developing a food safety program that enables District schools to take systematic action to prevent or minimize the risk of foodborne illness among students.

The District shall maintain proper sanitation and health standards in food storage, preparation and service, in accordance with applicable state and local laws and regulations and federal food safety requirements.

Professional Standards For Food Service Personnel

The District shall comply with the professional standards for school food service personnel who manage and operate the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs as defined by the USDA and PDE. For purposes of this Policy, professional standards include hiring standards for

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new food service program directors and annual continuing education/training for all individuals involved in the operation and administration of school meal programs. Such professional standards shall apply to both District-operated food service programs and contracted food service programs.

School Meal Accounts

Individual accounts shall be assigned to each student for accounting purposes for the purchase of all food items served in school cafeterias.

The Superintendent or their designee shall develop and disseminate Administrative Regulations addressing the following:

1. Procedures for collecting money for individual student accounts which ensure that the identity of each student is protected.
2. Procedures for notifying parents/guardians when the student's account reaches a specified level.
3. Procedures for providing students with meals when the student forgets or loses his/her money or when his/her account has insufficient funds.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 504, 807.1, 1335, 1337

Food Protection – 3 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 5713

National School Lunch Program – 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1751 et seq.

School Breakfast Program – 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1773

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 – P.L. 111-296

Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Awards, Title 2, Code of Federal Regulations – 2 CFR Part 200

Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations – 7 CFR Part 15

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National Food Service Programs, Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations – 7 CFR Part 210, Part 215, Part 220, Part 245

U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Instruction 113-1

Summer Food Service – 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1751 et seq. — 7 CFR Part 225