

## ACPS FOOD SERVICES

### I. ASSOCIATED REGULATION: EFB-R/JHCH-R: SCHOOL MEALS AND SNACKS

### II. GENERALLY

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) promotes high-quality school meals and snacks, recognizing that students need adequate, nourishing food in order to learn, grow, and maintain good health. It strives to provide an environment conducive to good health by supporting nutrition education and physical education. To reinforce the school division's nutrition education program, foods sold during regular school hours (on school premises) will follow the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Additionally, snacks and fundraisers during regular school hours and on school premises will follow the USDA's Smart Snacks in School standards, unless qualifying for a "competitive foods" exemption as described in Regulation EFB-R/JHCH-R.

### III. FREE AND REDUCED PRICE FOOD SERVICES

ACPS provides free and reduced price breakfasts and lunches to students according to the terms of the National School Lunch Program, the National School Breakfast Program, and any other special meal/snack programs identified to meet the needs of our students. School officials determine student eligibility based on guidelines established by federal law. Eligible students are provided nutritionally acceptable meals at a free and/or reduced cost if state and federal resources for school food programs are available. The Superintendent or designee establishes procedures as needed to implement this policy.

The criteria for determining a student's eligibility and the procedures for securing free and reduced price meals is publicly announced at the beginning of each school year and made available to parents/guardians of all children in attendance at ACPS through a variety of media platforms.

ACPS eliminates any stigma attached to, and prevents public identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced priced meals. Students who participate in free and reduced cost meal programs are not overtly identified, distinguished, or served differently than other students.

### IV. UNPAID MEAL CHARGES

Students who do not have money on account or in hand to cover the cost of a meal at the time of service are permitted to charge a full meal in accordance with the procedures discussed in Regulation EFB-R/JHCH-R. Students who cannot pay for a meal at school or who owe a school meal debt are not required or directed to throw away or discard a meal after it has been served to them. Students who cannot pay for a meal are never

required to do chores or other work to pay for such meals and are not publicly identified, including by the wearing of a wristband or hand stamp.

School Nutrition Services (SNS) notifies principals of any unpaid meal charges. Each school principal or designee notifies the student's parent/guardian in their preferred language regarding negative account balances according to the procedures in Regulation EFB-R/JHCH-R. Parents/guardians are expected to pay all meal charges in full by the last day of the school year.

ACPS may solicit and receive any donation or other funds for the purpose of eliminating or offsetting any school meal debt at any time and will use any such funds solely for such purpose.

Adopted: October 24, 1996  
Amended: September 8, 2005  
Amended: October 8, 2009  
Amended: March 10, 2016  
Amended: June 22, 2017  
Amended: December 16, 2021

Legal Refs: 42 U.S.C. §§ 1758, 1772, 1773.

7 C.F.R. §§ 210.9, 210.11, 220.20, 245.5, 245.8.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-79.7, 22.1-207.2:1, 22.1-207.2:2, 22.1-207.3, 22.1-207:3.1, 22.1-207.4, 22.1-207:4.1, 63.2-1509.

8 VAC 20-740-10.  
8 VAC 20-740-30.  
8 VAC 20-740-35.  
8 VAC 20-740-40.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, SP 23-2017 *Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance and Q&A*, March 23, 2017.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, SP 47-2016, *Unpaid Meal Charges: Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments*, July 8, 2016.

Cross Refs.:	EF	Food Service Management
	EFB-R/JHCH-R	School Meals and Snacks
	EFE	Food Service Records and Reports
	GAE	Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
	IGAE/IGAF	Health Education/Physical Education
	JHCF	Student Wellness
	JHCF-R	Student Wellness Guidelines

JHCF-R2	Food Allergy Guidelines
JL	Fundraising and Solicitation
KG	Public Sales on School Property
KH	Public Donations to the Schools
KH-R	Regulations for Public Donations to the Schools
KJ	Advertising in the Schools
KQ	Commercial, Promotional, and Corporate Sponsorships and Partnerships