

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (LUNCH AND BREAKFAST)**

**School Food Service Program (Lunch and Breakfast)**

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and to receive commodities and subsidies from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In return, the District provides free and reduced price meals to elementary and secondary students in its schools and serves meals that meet federal requirements.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will carry out the rules of the School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. The District's Reviewing Official and Verification Official or the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance of the Department of Social Services will determine student eligibility. Appeals regarding eligibility should be submitted to the District's Hearing Official.

The District may allow free or reduced price meals for qualifying District students after receiving a written application from the student's parent or guardian or a "direct certification" letter from OTDA. Applications will be provided by the School District to all families.

School officials must also determine eligibility for free or reduced-price meals by using the Direct Certification Matching Process. Any student residing in a household receiving federal assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or Medicaid is automatically eligible for free meals; eligible families will not have to complete further applications. The District will notify parents or guardians of such eligibility, giving them the opportunity to decline free meals.

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 Authorization**

Since the District's participates in one or more Child Nutrition Program, the Superintendent has developed rules which address the policies and procedures for charging meals, and the District's plan to prohibit meal shaming as required by Education Law § 908 (please see Board of Education Policy 5661).

**Restriction of Sweetened Foods in School**

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.

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## **SUBJECT: SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (LUNCH AND BREAKFAST (CONT'D.))**

### **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 nonacademic activities including school nutrition programs. The District will make reasonable accommodations to those children whose disabilities restrict their diets, such as providing substitutions and/or modifications in the regular meal patterns. These meal substitutions 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.

### **Adults Charging Meals**

Adults must pay for their meals at the time of service or set up pre-paid accounts.

### **HACCP-Based Food Safety Program**

Schools participating in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast programs are required to implement a food safety program based on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles. The District will ensure that a written school food safety plan is in place for each of its food preparation and service facilities that is based on either traditional HACCP principles or the "Process Approach" to HACCP. (The "Process Approach" simplifies traditional HACCP by grouping foods according to preparation process and applying the same control measures to all menu items with the group, rather than developing an HACCP plan for each item.)

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Regardless of the implementation option selected, the District's written food safety program must also include:

- a) critical control points and critical limits;
- b) monitoring procedures;
- c) corrective actions;
- d) verification procedures;
- e) recordkeeping requirements; and
- f) periodic review and food safety program revision.

Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, PL 108-265  
Child Nutrition Act 1966, 42 USC §1771 et seq.  
Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act 1946, 42 USC § 1751 et seq.  
§504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC § 794 et seq.  
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 USC §§ 1400-1485  
7 CFR Parts 15B, 210 and 220  
Education Law §§ 902(b), 915, 918, 1604(28), 1709(22), 1709(23) and 2503(9)(a)  
8 NYCRR §§ 200.2(b)(1) and 200.2(b)(2)  
Social Services Law § 95

Adopted 7/10/2001

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