

ACPS SCHOOL NUTRITION SERVICES

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.

I. 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 and milk 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. These procedures include posting prominently on the ACPS website a web-based application and the option of a paper-based application.

The criteria for determining a student’s eligibility and the procedures for securing free and reduced price meals and milk 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.

If any school in the division has a student population that qualifies for free and reduced-price meals at a minimum percentage of 50 percent in the prior school year and simultaneously offers educational or enrichment activities, the School Board applies to the Virginia Department of Education for such school to participate in the Afterschool Meal Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition (FNS) Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to subsequently and simultaneously serve federally reimbursable meals, snacks or both, and offer an afterschool education or enrichment program pursuant to FNS guidelines and state health and safety standards.

II. ETHNIC AND RACIAL DATA COLLECTION FOR SFSP AND CACFP MEAL PROGRAMS

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48 In accordance with U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-
49 FNS) regulations, when possible, ethnic and racial data should be collected about students
50 and other individuals participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer
51 Food Service Programs. Parents or guardians should be made aware that this information
52 is to ensure compliance with USDA nondiscrimination requirements. Participant names are
53 not required, however if the participants are ACPS students then the names may be used to
54 assist with collection of the data.

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56 Aggregate data may be used when individual data cannot be collected. Aggregate data must
57 be specific to the program’s locality. Examples of acceptable aggregate data sources
58 include local school databases, U.S. Census Quick facts, and the National Center for
59 Education Statistics Common Core of Data.

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61 **III. UNPAID MEAL CHARGES**

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63 Students who do not have money on account or in hand to cover the cost of a meal at the
64 time of service are permitted to charge a full meal in accordance with the procedures
65 discussed in Regulation EFB-R/JHCH-R. Students who cannot pay for a meal at school or
66 who owe a school meal debt are not required or directed to throw away or discard a meal
67 after it has been served to them. Students who cannot pay for a meal are never required to
68 do chores or other work to pay for such meals and are not publicly identified, including by
69 the wearing of a wristband or hand stamp.

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

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

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81 ACPS does not deny any student the opportunity to participate in any extracurricular
82 activity because the student cannot pay for a meal at school or owes a school meal debt.

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84 The Superintendent or designee ensures that federal child nutrition funds are not used to
85 offset the cost of unpaid meals and that the child nutrition program is reimbursed for debt
86 for unpaid meals.

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88 **IV. DONATED FOODS**

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90 The Superintendent, or their designee, will supervise the receiving, storage, and
91 distribution of all donated foods allocated by the United States Department of Agriculture
92 for the school lunch program in such a manner as will ensure compliance with the terms
93 and conditions of the agreement.

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95 Adopted: October 24, 1996
96 Amended: September 8, 2005
97 Amended: October 8, 2009
98 Amended: March 10, 2016
99 Amended: June 22, 2017
100 Amended: December 16, 2021
101 Amended: January 5, 2023

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103 Legal Refs: 42 U.S.C. §§ 1758, 1772, 1773.
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105 7 C.F.R. §§ 210.9, 210.11, 220.20, 245.5, 245.8.
106
107 Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-79.7, 22.1-207.2:1,
108 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.
109
110 8 VAC 20-740-10.
111 8 VAC 20-740-30.
112 8 VAC 20-740-35.
113 8 VAC 20-740-40.

114
115 U.S. Department of Agriculture, SP 23-2017 *Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance*
116 *and Q&A*, March 23, 2017.

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

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121 Cross Refs.: EF Food Service Management
122 EFB-R/JHCH-R School Meals and Snacks
123 EFE Food Service Records and Reports
124 GAE Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
125 IGAE/IGAF Health Education/Physical Education
126 JHCF Student Wellness
127 JHCF-R Student Wellness Guidelines
128 JHCF-R2 Food Allergy Guidelines
129 JL Fundraising and Solicitation
130 KG Public Sales on School Property
131 KH Public Donations to the Schools
132 KH-R Regulations for Public Donations to the Schools
133 KJ Advertising in the Schools
134 KQ Commercial, Promotional, and Corporate Sponsorships and
135 Partnerships