

SECTION 450

FOOD STANDARDS SAFETY POLICY

451 Food Services

All Students will remain at school for lunch and will not be allowed to leave the School or any recreation areas or common areas without permission, or, if the School authorizes leaving the School for lunch, all students shall follow the School's procedures and rules. Supervision of student activity in the lunchroom, recreation or common areas shall be the responsibility of the teacher or staff member in charge who may delegate this authority to others.

Any food service program provided or contracted for by the Board shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the counting, menus, selection, preparation, consumption, and disposal of food and beverages as well as to the fiscal management of the program. The contracted food service program shall be responsible for the planning as well as for the dietary and nutritional requirements of the meals served.

No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subject to physical segregation or other discrimination under any program or activity for which the School receives federal financial assistance for food and nutrition services on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, or income. No student shall be denied access to meals or milk as a disciplinary action, either directly or indirectly.

Students eligible for free or reduced-price meals shall not be identified by the School through the use of separate cafeteria entrances, separate meal service lines, or use of any other method likely to result in the identification of such students. The names of students eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals or free milk shall not be published, posted, or announced under any circumstances. Meals served to students eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals shall be the same meals as those served to students paying full price. Under no circumstance shall an eligible student be required to work for his or her meal.

Governmental regulations do not permit serving meals at the student price to staff or other adults.

If the School is a food service operator, then it is required to post a sign at all hand washing sinks used by food employees notifying them to wash their hands.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall submit a public release each school year informing the general public that the School participates in federal food service programs and providing information about free and reduced price meals. The School is not obligated to pay to publish the release, but the Superintendent or his/her designee must submit the release for publication to the media and to organizations in the School's geographic area that reach minority or under-represented groups, such as libraries, food pantries, and community action program agencies. The School must document the dates and locations of all media release submissions, including unsuccessful publication attempts.

Any school publication, including the School's website, that refers to any federal food service program or to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) must include the following statement:

“In accordance with Federal civil rights law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are

prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7742; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”

If the publication material is too small to permit the full statement to be included, the material will, at a minimum, include the following condensed statement, in print size no smaller than the text: “USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

The School shall prominently display the USDA “And Justice for All” poster in a location accessible to food service program participants. The poster must be 11” by 17.” The Superintendent or his/her designee may obtain copies of the poster by contacting the USDA Midwest Regional Office at 77 West Jackson Boulevard, 20th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60604-3057, or by calling (312) 353-6557.

R.C. 3717.42; OAC 3717-1-06.2(E)

See Appendix 451-A Hand Washing Poster and Appendix 451-B Sample Public Release

451.1 Unpaid Meal Charges

The School believes that all students should have access to healthy school lunches and wishes to minimize identification of students with insufficient funds, but recognizes the need to protect the financial stability of the school nutrition program. The School, as a school food authority, has established the following procedures, which will be implemented beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, (a) to handle situations in which a student eligible for reduced-price or full-price meal benefits has insufficient funds to pay for school meals, and (b) to collect unpaid meal charges and delinquent account debt.

Parents and students shall continue to comply with any and all School requests and procedures regarding pre-selection of meals, if applicable.

Unpaid Meal Charge

Students who qualify for free meals will not be denied a reimbursable meal even if they have previously accrued a negative balance. However, in these circumstances, students may be prohibited from purchasing a la carte or extra items. Students with unpaid meal charge debt who attend School with money to pay for a reduced-price or full-price meal at the time of that meal's service must be provided a meal, even if that student has accrued a negative balance. The School will not use the money intended to purchase a day's meal for repayment of a negative balance or other unpaid meal charge debt.

If a Student does not have funds to pay for a reduced-price or full price meal at the time of that meal's service, the student [check one]:

- ☒ 1. may charge the meal to the Student's meal account, if meals are available. The Student may charge up to _____ meal(s) or \$__. Students who charge a meal will receive a reimbursable meal. However, the School may limit the entrée choice to a less expensive option.
- ☐ 2. may charge an alternative meal to the Student's meal account, if alternative meals are available. The alternative meal items must be priced individually, meet Smart Snacks requirements, and accommodate special dietary needs. The Student may charge up to \$_____.
- ☐ 3. may receive an alternative meal from the School at no cost to the Student, if alternative meals are available. This meal does not need to meet Smart Snacks requirements, but must accommodate special dietary needs. The meal cost must be funded from a non-federal source.
- ☐ 4. may not charge a meal to the Student's meal account and will not receive a meal that day.

The School will notify the parent in writing if a Student's meal account falls below \$_____. This notification will include the amount of any low or negative balance, expected payment date,

consequences of non-payment, and information regarding where families can find assistance with applying for free and reduced-priced meals.

Collection of Delinquent or Bad Debt

The School shall consider debt delinquent and shall request payment ten (10) school days after the date in which the School provides parental notice of a student's negative account balance. The Superintendent or his/her designee will work directly with households to collect any delinquent meal charge debt and shall be responsible for managing charges and delinquent debt owed to the School. At the Superintendent's or his/her designee's discretion, the School may establish repayment plans for the collection of debt. Delinquent debt and repayment plans may carry over to the next school year.

If the Superintendent's or his/her designee determines that delinquent debt is uncollectible at the end of the school year, the debt will be considered "bad debt." Bad debt may not be carried over to the next school year. Bad debt must be restored to the School and Nutrition Program from the general fund prior to the end of the same fiscal year. Bad debt may not be recovered using federal funds.

Notification

The School will communicate this policy in writing to all students and households at the beginning of each school year and upon a change in a student's eligibility for meal benefits. Forms and information regarding free or reduced price lunch shall be available at the School office, and the Superintendent's or his/her designee shall be available to answer questions regarding the meal program and any unpaid meal charge debt. The School shall not disclose the identities of students eligible for free or reduced-priced meals except to those individuals who require that information to carry out an activity authorized by the National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751.

Community Eligibility Provision

Notwithstanding the above, if the Schools is a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) provider, the School shall provide reimbursable meals for breakfast and lunch to all students free of charge.

Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751.

451.2 Return of Unused Food Service Funds

At the end of each academic year, or upon the withdrawal of any student, the School will reconcile the amount of money paid by parents for food services with the actual number of meals purchased by students. If, at that time, it is determined that a parent has paid for more meals than were actually purchased by the student, the School will attempt to contact parents to determine the return of funds. Parents must elect in writing to do one of the following upon notice that unused funds remain in a student's account:

1. Carry over remaining funds to be credited towards student's account for the purchase of meals during the next school year;
2. Request reimbursement of any remaining funds; or
3. Donate the remaining funds to the School to cover the unpaid meal charges of other students that were uncollectable.

Parents must make this election within 90 days of the date of notice from the School, after which time the School will first attempt to credit the funds to the Student's account for the purchase of meals during the next school year, or, if this is not possible, the School will assume the remaining funds to have been donated to the School. If the School is a tax exempt entity, the School will issue a receipt acknowledging the parent's donation and will treat the funds in the same manner as all other donations.

Notwithstanding the above, households approved for free- or reduced-price meals shall be reimbursed for any unused funds remaining in a student account at the end of the academic year or at such time as the student is no longer enrolled in the School.

Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751.

The School recognizes the importance of good nutrition to each student's educational performance.

The School shall provide eligible needy students with breakfast and/or lunch at a reduced rate or no charge to the student. Children eligible for free and reduced-price meals shall be determined by the criteria established by the Child Nutrition Program and National School Lunch Act. These criteria are issued annually by the Federal government through the State Department of Education.

The Board designates the Superintendent or his/her designee as the responsible party to determine the eligibility of students for free and reduced rate meals. Eligibility determinations may be appealed to the Superintendent or his/her designee at a formal hearing held pursuant to any applicable federal and state hearing procedures.

The School shall not overtly identify children receiving free and reduced price meals. No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subject to physical segregation or other discrimination under any program or activity for which the School receives federal financial assistance for food and nutrition services on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, or income. See Policy 451 Food Services.

The School shall annually notify all interested persons of the availability, eligibility requirements, and application procedure for free and reduced rate meals by distributing an application to the family of each student enrolled in the School.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall prepare and implement the necessary arrangements and guidelines to ensure proper operation of this program. She/he shall ensure that the appropriate policy attachments for Free and Reduced-Price Meals or Free Milk are properly completed and submitted for approval to the School Food Service Division of the Ohio Department of Education by the beginning of each School year.

42 USC 1751; 7 C.F.R. 245.

The School believes that healthy students are more likely to successfully complete their formal education. The School recognizes that it plays an important role in the development of students' health and nutrition habits by providing nutritious meals and snacks, supporting the development of good eating habits, and promoting increased physical activity.

The Board sets forth the following goals in an effort to enable students to establish good health and nutrition habits:

Nutrition Promotion and Education Goals

- The School shall provide for interdisciplinary, sequential skill-based health education that that supports hands-on classroom activities that promote health and reduce obesity.
- Nutrition and healthy living skills shall be integrated into classroom curriculum when appropriate.
- Students in grades pre-K-12 shall receive nutrition education that is interactive and teaches the skills they need to adopt healthy eating behaviors.
- Nutrition education shall be offered and promoted in the School cafeteria as well as in the classroom with coordination between the foodservice staff and teachers.
- Nutrition education and promotion information will be shared with parents and the community.

Physical Education and Activity Goals

- Students shall be provided opportunities for physical activity during the school day through physical education classes, daily recess periods for elementary students, and the integration of physical activity in the classroom.
- Physical education classes shall stress physical fitness, encourage healthy, active lifestyles and consist of physical activities as part of the curriculum.
- Physical activity will not be used as a form of discipline or punishment.
- Physical activity and promotion information will be shared with parents and the community.
- The School shall encourage parents and the community to support physical activity, to be physically active role models, and to include physical activity at events.

Other School Based Activities

- School based activities shall promote student wellness and, if appropriate, shall encourage nutrition and physical education.
- Nutrition shall be considered when planning school-based activities such as classroom snacks, fundraisers, etc.
- The School will provide students with a clean and safe environment and adequate time for eating meals.

Nutrition Guidelines

- In accordance with the School's Food Standards Policy, the food service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the selection, preparation, consumption, and disposal of food and beverages sold in the School.
- Any food provided outside of the food service program, but not sold during the school day on the School premises, shall align with the goals and standards stated in this Wellness Policy.
- Marketing of foods and beverages at the School during the school day shall be limited to those foods and beverages that meet the standards set forth in the School's Food Standard Policy. The Board reserves the right to further limit marketing of food and beverages.
- The food service program will provide all students affordable access to a variety of nutritious foods.

Implementation and Evaluation

- The Superintendent or his/her designee shall ensure that the School implements, complies with, and annually evaluates this Policy.
- The School will consult with administrators, board members, parents, students, community members, school health professionals, physical education teachers (if applicable), or representatives of the school food authority. The committee will be provided the opportunity to participate in the development, implementation, periodic review, and update of the Policy. In developing or updating goals, the committee will review and consider evidence-based strategies and techniques.
- At least once every three (3) years, the School will measure the implementation of this Policy, focusing specifically on the extent to which the School has complied with the Policy, the extent to which the Policy compares to model local wellness policies, and the extent to which the School has progressed toward achieving its stated goals in the Policy. The School will create a written assessment for each periodic measurement that it will disseminate to students, their families, and other members of the community or post on its website. The School will make appropriate modifications to this Policy, if necessary, based on this assessment.
- At the start of each school year, the School will disseminate this Policy and information about its implementation to families of school children and other members of the community or post it on its website and will notify such individuals of changes to the Policy in the same manner.

The School shall retain documentation demonstrating compliance with this Policy, including requirements related to community involvement, triennial assessments of this Policy, and public dissemination of this Policy and any updates thereto.

42 U.S.C. 1758b; 42 U.S.C. 1771; 7 CFR 210.31; R.C. 3313.814; R.C. 3313.816; R.C. 3313.817

Handwashing and personal hygiene are important measures for use to prevent illness and communicable disease. Handwashing with soap and warm water for a minimum of ten (10) seconds, paying close attention to the surfaces between the fingers and on the back of the hands, is best for removing dirt and germs. The proper use of hand sanitizers is also useful in controlling the spread of germs.

School Food Authorities

1. Train any individual who prepares or serves food on proper handwashing. Training may include viewing a handwashing video and demonstrating proper handwashing procedure.
2. Post handwashing signs or posters in a language understood by all school food authorities near all handwashing sinks, in food preparation areas, and restrooms. See **Appendix 451-A** for a sample Handwashing Poster.
3. Use designated handwashing sinks for hand washing only. Do not use food preparation, utility, and dishwashing sinks for handwashing.
4. Provide warm running water, soap, and a means to dry hands. Provide a waste container at each handwashing sink or near the door in restrooms.
5. Keep handwashing sinks accessible anytime employees are present.
6. Wash hands:
 - Before starting work
 - During food preparation
 - When moving from one food preparation area to another
 - Before putting on or changing gloves
 - After using the toilet
 - After sneezing, coughing, or using a handkerchief or tissue
 - After touching hair, face, or body
 - After smoking, eating, drinking, or chewing gum or tobacco
 - After handling raw meats, poultry, or fish
 - After any clean up activity such as sweeping, mopping, or wiping counters
 - After touching dirty dishes, equipment, or utensils
 - After handling trash
 - After handling money
 - After any time the hands may become contaminated
7. Follow proper handwashing procedures as indicated below:
 - Wet hands and forearms with warm, running water (at least 100° F) and apply soap.
 - Scrub lathered hands and forearms, under fingernails and between fingers for at least 10-15 seconds. Rinse thoroughly under warm running water for 5-20 seconds.
 - Dry hands and forearms thoroughly with single-use paper towels.
 - Dry hands for at least 30 seconds if using a warm air hand dryer.
 - Turn off water using paper towels.
 - Use paper towel to open door when exiting the restroom.

8. Follow FDA recommendations when using hand sanitizers. These recommendations are as follows:
 - Use hand sanitizers only after hands have been properly washed and dried.
 - Use only hand sanitizers that are permitted for such use by an effective Food Contact Substance Notification.
 - Use hand sanitizers in the manner specified by the manufacturer.

Monitoring:

The Superintendent may designate an employee or an independent contractor/food service provider to visually observe the handwashing practices of the food school authorities at any random time during hours of operation. In addition, the designated person will visually observe that handwashing sinks are properly supplied during hours of operation.

Corrective Action:

Employees or food service contractors who are observed not washing their hands at the appropriate times or using the proper procedure will be asked to wash their hands immediately.

When soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly soiled, waterless disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used in place of hand washing.

A food service employee or contractor may be disciplined, up to and including termination for failure to adhere to this Policy.

454.1 Illness Exposure Management of Food Service Employees

All current food service employee, or potential employee to whom a job offer has been made, shall report any known or suspected illnesses that are transmissible through food. Reports must be made to the food service supervisor or the Superintendent or his or her designee prior to beginning the preparation or service of food.

Employees and potential employees shall be temporarily restricted from food service duties or excluded from the School if the individual experiences any of the following:

1. Vomiting, diarrhea, jaundice, sore throat with fever, or open and draining wounds, unless the wound is covered by appropriate and/or impermeable covering;
2. Is diagnosed by a health care provider with an illness due to campylobacter, cryptosporidium, Cyclospora, entamoeba histolytica, enterohemorrhagic or shiga toxin producing E. Coli, giardia, hepatitis A, norovirus, salmonella spp., salmonella typhi, shigella, vibrio cholerae, or yersinia ("Reportable Illnesses"); or
3. Was exposed to an outbreak of any of the Reportable Illnesses, or works or resides in the same household as an individual who is known to have been exposed to or diagnosed with a Reportable Illness.

Employees and potential employees may be permitted to return to food service duties when the individual is no longer symptomatic, or when the individual presents evidence from a health care provider or the Ohio Department of Health that he or she does not pose a threat to public health.

Compliance with this policy is mandatory and failure to abide by this policy may subject an employee or potential employee to discipline, up to and including discharge.

O.A.C. 3717-1-02.1.

I have read and understand the above stated expectations and agree to abide by them.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Employee Name: _____

The Board shall create standards for the types of food and beverages sold or provided in the School and the time and place each type of food and beverage is sold or provided, in accordance with state law and based on the following guidelines:

- A. The types of food and beverages sold in the School will
 - 1. promote student health and reduce childhood obesity,
 - 2. significantly benefit the daily nutritional needs of students (per U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines),
 - 3. align with School Wellness Policy (Policy 453) requirements, and
 - 4. follow requirements provided under state and federal law.
- B. The Board or its designee shall consult with a licensed dietician, a registered dietetic technician or a certified/credentialed school nutrition specialist to assist in drafting a plan:
 - 1. for complying with and enforcing the nutritional standards governing the types of food and beverages that may be sold on the School premises in compliance with State law; and
 - 2. specifying the time and place each type of food or beverage may be sold.

*See **Appendix 455-A Nutrition Standards for Food and Beverages.***

- C. The times and locations of food and beverage sales to students on school grounds will be assigned based on nutrient intake needs and eating patterns of students and align with class schedules. With regard to non-breakfast/lunch food and beverage sales:
 - 1. The School will not operate vending machines offering foods or beverages that do not meet the nutritional standards established by the School during the school lunch period. The Board reserves the right to totally restrict the sale of non-nutritional foods and beverages in vending machines.
 - 2. Bake sales and other school fundraising activities involving food and beverage items may not be held during a school meal period. The School will limit the frequency of bake sales and other food based fundraisers where non-nutritional foods and beverages will be sold based on the standard established by the Department of Education.
- D. The types of food and beverages provided, but not sold, to students will align with the School Wellness Program and any applicable requirements provided under state law. The Board may provide parents with a list of acceptable snacks that may be provided in the School.

- E. Annually, the food services supervisor shall review and report the School's compliance with these standards to the Board and to the Ohio Department of Education. The Board may establish separate standards regulating the types of food and beverages to be sold to Staff Members and for special or extracurricular events.

This policy applies to the sale or provision of foods from the midnight before the school day until 30 minutes after the end of the regular school day on school premises. School premises, for the purpose of this policy, include any areas of property under the School's jurisdiction that is accessible to students during the regular school day.

7 C.F.R. 210.10-210.11; 7 C.F.R. 210.31(c)(2)-(3); 7 C.F.R. 220.8; R.C. 3313.814; R.C. 3313.816; R.C. 3313.817; OAC 3301-91-09; USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines.