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CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS (REGULATION)

In accordance with the policy of the board of education, the following regulation shall govern the comprehensive nutrition programs in this school district.

School Cafeterias

1. Any student may eat in the school cafeteria or other designated place.
2. Students may bring or otherwise provide their own lunch. Milk or other beverages may be purchased in the dining hall, if desired.
3. Meal prices will be established by the superintendent and food service supervisor, with the approval of the board of education, at the beginning of each year.
4. Meal prices will be conspicuously posted in each cafeteria.
5. A guest must be cleared through the food service supervisor by his/her host to be eligible to eat in the cafeteria.
6. Use of dining room facilities by nondistrict organizations or individuals must have approval of the superintendent.
7. The food service supervisor will develop in-service training programs, approved by the superintendent, for the food service staff.
8. Under federal law, a school that operates on a commodity program is prohibited from serving free meals to any adult, including employees of the district.
9. Qualifications for free and reduced-price lunches will vary annually in accordance with the annual eligibility schedule.
10. Charge Policy: As stated in the Oklahoma State Department of Education Child Nutrition manual, the school district "is not required to provide meals if payment is not made for the current day's meal or if funds in a student's account are not sufficient to cover the cost of the meal." However, Fort Gibson Public Schools recognizing the link between nutrition and education will extend the following charge policy as a courtesy to students and parents:
 - **Elementary Students:** Students may not exceed a \$10 charge limit. Once the student can no longer accumulate additional charges, the student may be offered, as a courtesy, a complimentary sandwich and milk for lunch and toast and milk for breakfast.

- **Middle School and High School Students:** Students may not exceed one charge. Once the student can no longer accumulate additional charges, the student may be offered, as a courtesy, a complimentary sandwich and milk for lunch and toast and milk for breakfast. Students are not allowed to charge ala carte items

If you feel that your family may qualify for Free or Reduced - Price Meals, please submit an application as soon as possible. Applications may be picked up at any cafeteria or a link to the application may be found on the school website under Child Nutrition. You may call the Child Nutrition Office at 918-478-2191 if you need assistance.

Parents may pay on their child's account in the cafeteria, by sending cash or check with your child or you may pay online at myschoolbucks.com.

Definitions

1. **Competitive foods** mean any food or drink sold in competition with the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program in food service areas during the meal periods.

2. **Dietary Guidelines for Americans** means the current set of recommendations of the federal government that are designed to help people choose diets that will meet nutrient requirements, promote health, support active lives, and reduce chronic disease risks.

3. **Nutrition education** means a planned sequential instructional program that provides knowledge and teaches skills to help students adopt and maintain lifelong healthy eating habits.

4. **Foods of minimal nutritional value means:**

A. In the case of artificially sweetened foods, a food that provides less than five percent of the Reference Daily Intakes (RDI) for each of eight specified nutrients per serving; and

B. In the case of all other foods, a food that provides less than five percent of the RDI for each of eight specified nutrients per 100 calories and less than five percent of the RDI for each of eight specified nutrients per serving. The eight nutrients to be assessed for this purpose are protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, niacin, riboflavin, thiamine, calcium, and iron.

C. Food that is classified into four categories:

- Carbonated soft drinks
- Chewing gum
- Water ices
- Certain candies made predominately from sweeteners such as hard candy, licorice, jellybeans, gumdrops, marshmallows, fondant, cotton candy, and candy-coated popcorn

5. **Food service area** means any area on school premises where child nutrition program meals are both served and eaten, as well as any areas in which such meals are either served or eaten.

6. **Meal period** means the period(s) during which breakfast or lunch meals are served and eaten, and as identified on the school schedule.

Nutrition and Food Services Operation

In order to support the school's nutrition and food services operation as an essential partner in the educational mission of the district and its role in the district's comprehensive nutrition program, the building principal is responsible for ensuring:

1. The school encourages all students to participate in the school's child nutrition program meal opportunities.
2. The school notifies families of need-based programs for free or reduced-price meals and encourages eligible families to apply.
3. Reasonable efforts shall be made to protect the confidentiality of students and families applying for or receiving free or reduced-price meals [or free milk] in accordance with the National School Lunch Act.
4. The school's child nutrition program operates to meet nutrition standards in accordance with the Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994, as amended, and with applicable state laws and regulations.
5. The school sells or serves varied and nutritious food choices consistent with the applicable federal government Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
6. Food prices set by the district are communicated to students and parents. District pricing strategies will encourage students to purchase full meals and nutritious items.
7. Procedures are in place for providing to families, on request, information about the ingredients and nutritional value of the foods served.
8. A parent has the right to appeal to the superintendent any decision with respect to his/her application for free or reduced-price food services.
9. Food service equipment and facilities meet applicable local and state standards concerning health; safe food preparation, handling, and storage; drinking water; sanitation; and workplace safety.
10. Students are provided adequate time and space to eat meals in a pleasant and safe environment. School dining areas will be reviewed to ensure:
 - A. Tables and chairs are of the appropriate size for students;
 - B. Seating is not overcrowded;

- C. Students have a relaxed environment;
- D. Noise is not allowed to become excessive;
- E. Rules for safe behavior are consistently enforced;
- F. Tables and floors are cleaned between meal periods;
- G. The physical structure of the eating area is in good repair,
- H. Appropriate supervision is provided.

11. In the operation of the Child Nutrition Programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or disability. Discrimination complaints under these programs should be filed with the State Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-4599.

Adopted: August, 1999

Revised: 2/12/13, 2/10/14 and 6/12/17