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

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

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

## III. 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.

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

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

## IV. DONATED FOODS

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

File: EFB/JHCH

94			
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	
102		•	
103	Legal Refs:	42 U.S.C. §§ 1758, 1	772, 1773.
104	C	00	
105		7 C.F.R. §§ 210.9, 21	0.11, 220.20, 245.5, 245.8.
106		00 /	
107		Code of Virginia, 195	50, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-79.7, 22.1-207.2:1,
108		22.1-207.2:2, 22.1-20	07.3, 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 A	Agriculture, SP 23-2017 Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance
116		and Q&A, March 23,	2017.
117			
118		U.S. Department of A	Agriculture, SP 47-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges:
119		Clarification on Coll	ection of Delinquent Meal Payments, July 8, 2016.
120			
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