

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

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.

55  
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.

60  
61 **III. UNPAID MEAL CHARGES**

62  
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  
68 to do chores or other work to pay for such meals and are not publicly identified, including  
69 by the wearing of a wristband or hand stamp.

70  
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.

76  
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.

80  
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.

83  
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.

87  
88 **IV. DONATED FOODS**

89  
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.

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  
102 Legal Refs: 42 U.S.C. §§ 1758, 1772, 1773.  
103  
104 7 C.F.R. §§ 210.9, 210.11, 220.20, 245.5, 245.8.  
105  
106 Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-79.7, 22.1-207.2:1,  
107 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.  
108  
109 8 VAC 20-740-10.  
110 8 VAC 20-740-30.  
111 8 VAC 20-740-35.  
112 8 VAC 20-740-40.

113  
114 U.S. Department of Agriculture, SP 23-2017 *Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance*  
115 *and Q&A*, March 23, 2017.  
116

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

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

1 ACPS SCHOOL NUTRITION FOOD SERVICES

2 ASSOCIATED REGULATION: EFB-R/JHCH-R: SCHOOL MEALS AND  
3 SNGENERA

4 Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) promotes high-quality school meals and snacks,  
5 recognizing that students need adequate, nourishing food in order to learn, grow, and maintain  
6 good health. It strives to provide an environment conducive to good health by supporting  
7 nutrition education and physical education. To reinforce the school division's nutrition  
8 education program, foods sold during regular school hours (on school premises) will follow  
9 the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.  
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12 Additionally, snacks and fundraisers during regular school hours and on school premises will  
13 follow the USDA's Smart Snacks in School standards, unless qualifying for a "competitive  
14 foods" exemption as described in Regulation EFB-R/JHCH-R.  
15

16 I. FREE AND REDUCED PRICE FOOD SERVICES

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19 terms of the National School Lunch Program, the National School Breakfast Program, and  
20 any other special meal/snack programs identified to meet the needs of our students. School  
21 officials determine student eligibility based on guidelines established by federal law.  
22 Eligible students are provided nutritionally acceptable meals and milk at a free and/or  
23 reduced cost if state and federal resources for school food programs are available. The  
24 Superintendent or designee establishes procedures as needed to implement this policy.  
25 These procedures include posting prominently on the ACPS website a web-based  
26 application and the option of a paper-based application.  
27

Commented [MS1]: Required under the code

28 The criteria for determining a student's eligibility and the procedures for securing free and  
29 reduced price meals and milk is publicly announced at the beginning of each school year  
30 and made available to parents/guardians of all children in attendance at ACPS through a  
31 variety of media platforms.  
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33 ACPS eliminates any stigma attached to, and prevents public identification of, students  
34 who are eligible for free and reduced priced meals. Students who participate in free and  
35 reduced cost meal programs are not overtly identified, distinguished, or served differently  
36 than other students.  
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38 If any school in the division has a student population that qualifies for free and reduced-  
39 price meals at a minimum percentage of 50 percent in the prior school year and  
40 simultaneously offers educational or enrichment activities, the School Board applies to the  
41 Virginia Department of Education for such school to participate in the Afterschool Meal  
42 Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition (FNS)  
43 Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to subsequently and simultaneously serve  
44 federally reimbursable meals, snacks or both, and offer an afterschool education or  
45 enrichment program pursuant to FNS guidelines and state health and safety standards.  
46

Commented [MS2]: Per the enactment of Va. Code § 22.1-207.4:2

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

48 PROGRAMS

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51 and other individuals participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer  
52 Food Service Programs. Parents or guardians should be made aware that this information  
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54 not required, however if the participants are ACPS students then the names may be used to  
55 assist with collection of the data.

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58 be specific to the program’s locality. Examples of acceptable aggregate data sources  
59 include local school databases, U.S. Census Quick facts, and the National Center for  
60 Education Statistics Common Core of Data.

**Commented [MS3]:** New section to reflect changes in how data must be gathered for these programs.

61  
62  
63 III. UNPAID MEAL CHARGES

64 Students who do not have money on account or in hand to cover the cost of a meal at the  
65 time of service are permitted to charge a full meal in accordance with the procedures  
66 discussed in Regulation EFB-R/JHCH-R. Students who cannot pay for a meal at school or  
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74 language regarding negative account balances according to the procedures in Regulation  
75 EFB-R/JHCH-R. Parents/guardians are expected to pay all meal charges in full by the last  
76 day of the school year.

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79 or offsetting any school meal debt at any time and will use any such funds solely for such  
80 purpose.

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

**Commented [MS4]:** Per the amendment of Va. Code § 22.1-79.7

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

**Commented [MS5]:** From the VSBA model policy

89  
90 IV. DONATED FOODS

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92 The Superintendent, or their designee, will supervise the receiving, storage, and  
93 distribution of all donated foods allocated by the United States Department of Agriculture

94 for the school lunch program in such a manner as will ensure compliance with the terms  
95 and conditions of the agreement.

Commented [MS6]: Relocated from EFE - FOOD SERVICE RECORDS AND REPORTS

97 Adopted: October 24, 1996  
98 Amended: September 8, 2005  
99 Amended: October 8, 2009  
100 Amended: March 10, 2016  
101 Amended: June 22, 2017  
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104 Legal Refs: 42 U.S.C. §§ 1758, 1772, 1773.

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