

SCHOOL MEALS AND SNACKS

The Shenandoah County School Board recognizes that students need adequate, nourishing food in order to learn, grow, and maintain good health.

Generally

To reinforce the division's nutrition education program, foods sold to students during regular school hours on school premises will be

- carefully selected so as to contribute to students' nutritional well-being and the prevention of disease;
- prepared in ways that will appeal to students, retain nutritive quality, and foster lifelong healthful eating habits;
- served in age-appropriate quantities and at reasonable prices; and
- prepared to include local meat/produce/fruit in season when feasible

The Shenandoah County School Board promotes high-quality school meals and snacks by

- involving students in the selection, tasting, and marketing of healthy foods and beverages that appeal to students;
- providing a variety of food options, such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and dairy foods, which are low in fat and added sugars;
- offering a variety of healthy choices that appeal to students, including cultural and ethnic favorites;
- restricting student access to unhealthy foods in vending machines, school stores, and other venues that compete with healthy school meals; and
- ensuring that healthy snacks and foods are provided in vending machines, school stores, and other venues within the division's control. The healthy options should cost the same or less than unhealthy alternatives.

The Shenandoah County School Board strives to provide an environment conducive to good health by

- allowing an adequate amount of time and space for students to eat school meals;
- ensuring that drinking fountains are operable, clean, and convenient for use throughout the school day;
- offering extracurricular physical activity programs, such as physical activity clubs, intramural programs, or interscholastic athletics;
- discouraging the promotion and advertising of unhealthy foods;
- using non-food items rather than food items such as candy, cakes, soda, and foods high in fat, as incentives and rewards for good behavior or academic performance; and
- encouraging parents to support the division's nutrition education efforts by considering nutritional quality when selecting any snacks which they may donate for occasional class parties.

The Shenandoah County School Board supports nutrition education and physical education by

- ensuring that qualified nutrition education and physical education specialists focus on knowledge and skill development so students are able to learn and adopt healthy eating and physical activity behaviors;
- eliminating any stigma attached to, and preventing public identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

Meals and Snacks

Meals and snacks offered as part of the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program meet, at a minimum, the requirements established by state and federal law and regulation.

Schools make potable water available and accessible without restriction to children at no charge in the place(s) where lunches are served during the meal service.

Competitive Foods

Definitions

“Competitive food” means all food and beverages other than meals reimbursed under programs authorized by the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day.

“School campus” means all areas of the property under the jurisdiction of the school that are accessible to students during the school day.

“School day” means the period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.

All competitive food sold to students on the school campus during the school day meets the nutrition standards specified by federal and state law and regulation.

No school may conduct school-sponsored fundraisers during which food that does not meet the nutrition guidelines for competitive foods may be available for sale to students.

The Shenandoah County School Board is responsible for maintaining records that document compliance with this policy. Those records include receipts, nutrition labels and/or product specifications for the competitive food available for sale to students.

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 may be permitted to charge the meal. Students may charge no more than five (5)

meals (breakfasts and lunches) to their accounts. Students who charge a meal will receive a reimbursable meal.

A student carrying a negative balance for five (5) meals is not permitted to charge any additional amounts. Students who qualify for free meals will not be denied a reimbursable meal even if they have accrued a negative balance on their cafeteria account. A student who is not permitted to charge any additional amounts must be permitted to buy a meal if the student has cash on hand. Reasonable efforts are used to avoid calling attention to a student's inability to pay.

The written meal charge policy will be

- communicated to the household by posting on the Shenandoah County Public Schools website, including in the student information packet distributed on the first day of school and to all transfer students during the school year, and attaching to the Meal Benefits Application; and
- communicated to all division staff prior to the first day of school.

Notices of low or negative balances in a student's meal account are sent to parents and the school principal.

- The student's household will be notified when a student's cafeteria account is \$5.00 or less.
- Phone calls are made on Mondays for low balances and on Wednesdays and Fridays for negative accounts.
- Email notifications are made at least twice per week.
- Notifications to households will include the amount of unpaid meal charges, expected payment dates, the consequences of non-payment and where to go for questions or assistance.
- The persons responsible for managing unpaid meal charges are:
 - School cafeteria staff will collect payment for meals at the POS in the cafeteria.
 - Food Service Department at the central office will contact households.

Parents are expected to pay all meal charges in full by the last day of the school year. Any delinquent meal charge debt may be turned over to a collection agency.

If a parent regularly fails to provide meal money or send food to school with the student and the student does not qualify for free or reduced benefits the child nutrition director will inform the principal, who will determine the next course of action, which may include notifying the department of social services of suspected child neglect and/or taking legal steps to recover the unpaid meal charges.

Households with questions or needing assistance may contact the school office where their student attends or the School Food Service office at: Shenandoah County Public Schools Food Service, 600 North Main Street, Suite 200, Woodstock, VA 22664 (540) 459-6222.

Adopted: January 9, 2015
Revised: September 8, 2016
Revised: June 13, 2017

Legal Refs: U.S. Department of Agriculture, SP 46-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies, July 8, 2016.

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

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-207.4.

Virginia Board of Education, A Resolution to Establish and Define Exemptions for School-Sponsored Fundraisers Pending Incorporation in the Proposed Regulations Governing Nutritional Guidelines for Competitive Foods Available for Sale in the Public Schools (Nov. 19, 2015).

Cross Refs:	EFB	Free and Reduced Price Food Services
	IGAE/IGAF	Health Education/Physical Education
	JHCF	Student Wellness
	JL	Fund Raising and Solicitation
	KQ	Commercial, Promotional and Corporate Sponsorships and Partnerships