

OPERATIONS
8505/page 1 of 2
School Nutrition
Jan 06
M

SCHOOL NUTRITION

The Board of Education recognizes child and adolescent obesity has reached epidemic levels in the United States and that poor diet combined with the lack of physical activity negatively impacts on pupils' health and their ability and motivation to learn. The Board is committed to: providing pupils with healthy and nutritious foods; encouraging the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, low fat milk and whole grains; supporting healthy eating through nutrition education; encouraging pupils to select and consume all components of the school meal; and providing pupils with the opportunity to engage in daily physical activity.

All reimbursable meals shall meet federal nutrient standards as required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Child Nutrition Program regulations. All items served as part of an After School Snack Program shall meet the standards as outlined within this Policy.

The following items may not be served, sold, or given out as free promotion anywhere on school property at anytime before the end of the school day:

1. Foods of minimal nutritional value (FMNV) as defined by U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations;
2. All food and beverage items listing sugar, in any form, as the first ingredient; and
3. All forms of candy.

Schools shall reduce the purchase of any products containing trans fats. Federal labeling of trans fats on all food products is required by January 1, 2006.

All snack and beverage items sold or served anywhere on school property during the school day, including items sold in a la carte lines, vending machines, snack bars, school stores, and fundraisers, or served in the reimbursable After School Snack Program, shall meet the following standards:

1. Based on manufacturers nutritional data or nutrient facts labels:
 - a. No more than eight grams of total fat per serving, with the exception of nuts and seeds.
 - b. No more than two grams of saturated fat per serving.

OPERATIONS
8505/page 2 of 2
School Nutrition
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M

2. All beverages shall not exceed 12 ounces, with the following exceptions:
 - a. Water
 - b. Milk containing 2% or less fat
3. Whole milk shall not exceed 8 ounces.

In the elementary schools, 100% of all beverages offered shall be milk, water, or 100% fruit or vegetable juices.

In middle and high schools, at least 60% of all beverages offered, other than milk and water, shall be 100% fruit or vegetable juices. No more than 40% of all ice cream/frozen desserts shall be allowed to exceed the standards in this Policy for sugar, fat, and saturated fat.

Food and beverages served during special school celebrations or during curriculum related activities shall be exempt from this Policy, with the exception of food of minimal nutritional value as defined by USDA regulations.

This Policy does not apply to: medically authorized special needs diets pursuant to 7 CFR Part 210, school nurses using FMNVs during the course of providing health care to individual pupils; or special needs pupils whose Individualized Education Plan (IEP) indicates their use for behavior modification.

Adequate time shall be allowed for pupil meal service and consumption. The school district shall provide a pleasant dining environment for pupils, and schools shall attempt to schedule physical education or recess before lunch whenever possible.

The school district's curriculum shall incorporate nutrition education and physical activity consistent with the New Jersey Department of Education Core Curriculum Standards.

The Board of Education is committed to promoting this School Nutrition Policy with all food services personnel, teachers, nurses, coaches, and other school administrative staff so they have the skills needed to implement this Policy and promote healthy eating practices. The Board will work toward expanding awareness about this Policy among pupils, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), teachers, and the community at large.

N.J.A.C. 2:36-1.7(a); 2:36-1.7(b)

Adopted: September 21, 2006