

BATH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: INFORMATION { } ACTION { X } CLOSED MEETING { }

SUBJECT: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - ACTION

VSBA Policy JHCH – School Meals and Snacks

BACKGROUND: Policy JHCH – School Meals and Snacks has been updated to reflect guidance from the USDA for implementation of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

This policy was first shared in March, 2017 for first reading with a recommendation that the policy be adopted at a later date but prior to the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

RECOMMENDATION: The allowance of meal charges up to \$25.00 would be allowed rather than provide alternate meals to students without an account balance or cash in hand.

SCHOOL MEALS AND SNACKS

The Bath 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; and
- served in age-appropriate quantities and at reasonable prices.

The Bath 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 Bath 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;
- scheduling lunch periods at reasonable hours around midday;
- 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 Bath 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;
- offering nutrition education in the school dining area(s) and in the classroom, with coordination between food service staff and teachers; and
- 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.

Unpaid Meal Charges¹

Students² who do not have money on account or in hand to cover the cost of a **meal³** at the time of service ~~CHOOSE ONE~~ **may be permitted to charge the meal** ~~OR~~

FOOTNOTE IS FOR REFERENCE ONLY AND SHOULD BE DELETED FROM FINAL POLICY.

¹ The U.S. Department of Agriculture directs divisions which participate in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program to have a policy in place for participating children who do not have money in their account or in hand to cover the cost of the meal at the time of service. SP 46-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies, July 8, 2016, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cn/SP46-2016os.pdf>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture directs the division's policy on unpaid meal charges to be delivered to all households at the start of the school year and to households that transfer into the school division during the school year. SP 46-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies, July 8, 2016. The division may also wish to publicize the policy in other ways, such as by inclusion in student handbooks and/or in online portals used to access student accounts.

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² Divisions may choose to create different rules for students at different grade levels.

³ This policy assumes that students are not permitted to charge a la carte or extra items. If a division does permit students to charge such items, the policy, or an accompanying regulation, should clarify that fact.

~~[may be given an alternative meal OR [insert local practice]].~~⁴ Students may charge no more than **\$25.00 OR _____ meals** to their accounts.⁵ Students are not permitted to charge a la carte or extra items.

A student carrying a negative balance of **\$25.00** or more is not permitted to charge any additional amounts. A student who is not permitted to charge any additional amounts is 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.

Notices of low or negative balances in a student's meal account are sent⁶ to parents and the school principal. Parents are expected to pay all meal charges in full by the last day of the school year.

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 director⁷ 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.⁸

⁴ Neither state nor federal law requires schools to permit students to charge meals or to provide alternative meals. If the division charges students for alternative meals, that information should be included here.

⁵ If the division does not permit students to charge meals, the policy should be adjusted accordingly.

⁶ Divisions may want to provide more detail regarding the points at which notice will be sent either in the policy or in an accompanying regulation. For example, a division may provide notice any time the balance in an account reaches a certain point and/or may provide a periodic report regardless of the balance in the account.

⁷ Divisions may substitute the title of a different staff person.

⁸ Any other steps that the division may take to recover funds should be added here.

The superintendent 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 bad debt.⁹ In order to accomplish those goals, the following procedures¹⁰ are followed:

- At least one written notice is provided to a student and the student's parent or guardian prior to the student being denied reimbursable meals for exceeding the division's charge limit.
- If payment of the negative balance is not received within **ten (10)** working days of the maximum charge limit being reached, the debt will be turned over to the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection. If the debt is not paid within **five (5)** days of notice being given, it is considered bad debt for the purposes of federal law concerning unpaid meal charges.

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.¹¹

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⁹ The U.S. Department of Agriculture directs that information regarding the collection of delinquent meal charge debt be included in this policy. More information regarding how federal regulations apply to the nonprofit school food service account (NSFSA) may be found in SP 47-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments, July 8, 2016, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cn/SP47-2016os.pdf>.

¹⁰ Any additional procedures followed in the division should be included here or in an accompanying regulation.

¹¹ School boards may impose additional restrictions on competitive foods, provided that they are not inconsistent with federal regulations.

Each school may conduct **five (5)**¹² school-sponsored fundraisers per school year during which food that does not meet the nutrition guidelines for competitive foods may be available for sale to students.

The BLANK 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.

Adopted:

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

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¹² Each school board must select the number of school-sponsored fundraisers that will be permitted. The maximum number permitted is 30.