

School Meals

This policy supports the mission of the District, including providing an environment that cultivates maximum student potential. Nutrition influences a child's development, health, well-being, and potential for learning. To afford students the opportunity to fully participate in the educational process, students must attend school with minds and bodies ready to take advantage of their learning environment. This policy encourages all members of the school community to create an environment that supports lifelong healthy eating habits. Decisions made in all school programming need to reflect and encourage positive nutrition messages and healthy food choices.

National School Lunch Program and the National School Breakfast Program

The full meal program will follow the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the National School Breakfast Program (SBP) Nutrition Standards as well as Smart Snacks in Schools standards, and offer a variety of fruits and vegetables. All of the grains served shall be whole grain.

Breakfast

To ensure that children have an opportunity to have breakfast, either at home or at school, and in order to meet their nutritional needs and enhance their ability to learn, District schools will:

1. To the extent possible, operate the School Breakfast Program;
2. To the extent possible, arrange bus schedules and utilize methods to serve school breakfasts that encourage participation;
3. Notify parents and students of the availability of the School Breakfast and Lunch Programs; and
4. Encourage parents to provide a healthy breakfast for their children through newsletter articles, take-home materials, or other means.

Lunchroom Climate

The Board encourages schools to make the lunchroom environment be a place where students have adequate space to eat and pleasant surroundings.

Meal Times and Scheduling Recommendations

District schools to the greatest extent possible should:

1. Provide students with at least ten (10) minutes to eat after sitting down for breakfast and twenty (20) minutes after sitting down for lunch;
2. Schedule meal periods at appropriate times;
3. Not schedule tutoring, club or organizational meetings, or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities; and
4. Schedule lunch periods in elementary schools to follow recess periods;

5. Provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks.

Meal Account Balances

In order to protect a student's privacy, Madison Food Services Cashiers will not offer information to tell a student their account is low. Students must ask the Cashier to determine account levels. When the student asks, the Cashier will let them know if they have money in their account or if they need to bring some money, but will not give them specific numbers. A tray filled with food will never be taken away from a student.

Madison Food Services will address negative balances using the following procedure.

1. The Kitchen Manager or Lead will send a note home, make a phone call and/or send an email to the parents notifying them of a negative balance.
2. If the student's account goes to 4 meals in the negative, the Manager or Lead will make a phone call and/or send a second email.
3. When the account gets to 8 meals in the negative, the Manager or Lead will turn the student's name over to the Food Services Office or the Principal (to be determined by each situation). The parents will then receive a phone call to get the balance resolved.
4. As a last resort, if the parents fail to bring the account current and if the student is 10 meals in the negative, Secondary students will receive a fruit or a vegetable and milk. The milk will be charged to their account. Elementary students will continue to receive a full meal while the account balance is being resolved. Each Manager or Lead will write down and keep record of each email or phone call, date and time.

Legal Reference: 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq. National School Lunch Act
7 CFR Parts 210 Nutrition School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs:
Final Rule Smart Snacks in School Regulations by the United States
Department of Agriculture

Policy History:

Adopted on: August 20, 2015

Revised on: October 18, 2018