

## **3550 Food Service - Child Nutrition Program**

The Governing Board recognizes that adequate, nourishing food is essential to student health, development, and ability to learn. The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies to increase students' access to the district's food service programs and to maximize their participation in available programs.

Foods and beverages available through the district's food service program shall:

1. Be carefully selected so as to contribute to students' nutritional well-being and the prevention of disease.
2. Meet or exceed nutritional standards specified in law.
3. Be prepared in ways which will appeal to students, retain nutritive quality and foster lifelong healthful eating habits.
4. Be served in age-appropriate portions.
5. Be provided at no cost to students who request a meal.

The district's food service program shall give priority to serving unprocessed foods and fresh fruits and vegetables.

Students shall be provided adequate space to eat meals. To the extent possible, school, recess and transportation schedules shall be designed to promote participation in school meal programs.

District schools are encouraged to establish school gardens and/or farm-to-school projects to increase the availability of safe, fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables for school meals and to support the district's nutrition education program.

To encourage student participation in school meal programs, schools may offer multiple choices of food items within a meal service, provided all food items meet nutrition standards and all students are given an opportunity to select any food item.

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically review the adequacy of school cafeterias and facilities for food preparation and consumption.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a food safety program in order to reduce the risk of food borne hazards at each step of the food preparation process, from receiving to service. Professional development for food service personnel shall include nutrition education and safe food handling.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies designed to encourage the participation of students and parents/guardians in the selection of foods of good nutritional quality for school menus. Parents/guardians are encouraged to support the district's nutrition education efforts by considering nutritional quality when selecting any snacks which they may donate for occasional class parties.

**Board Approved:**

April 13, 2023

May 28, 2015

June 8, 2011

February 28, 2008

March 23, 2006

Effective Date: July 22, 2004