

## SCHOOL MEALS AND SNACKS

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

- ensuring that qualified health and physical education teachers 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 Charges

Students at all levels 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 \$18.00 to their accounts.

A student carrying a negative balance of \$18 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. A student who is not permitted to charge any additional amounts and does not have cash on hand will receive an alternate meal at no charge. Reasonable efforts are used to avoid calling attention to a student's inability to pay.

Parents are notified via an automated call any time there is a low balance of \$4.50 or less on the student's account. Parents are also notified via an automated call any time the student makes a charge, resulting in a negative balance. Written notices of any negative balances in a student's meal account are sent to principals daily, and to parents on a quarterly basis. 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 Food Services Supervisor 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.

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. In order to accomplish those goals, the following procedures are followed:

- Automated calls are placed to the student's parent when the account balance is low (\$4.50 or less), and when the student has a negative balance.
- A written notice of any negative balance is provided to a student and the student's parent or guardian at the end of each quarter.
- If payment of the negative balance is not received within ten working days of the written notice being sent, the debt will be turned over to the principal for collection.
- If the debt is not paid by the last day of school, it will be turned over to the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection, and a final written notice of the negative balance will be sent to the student's parent.
- If payment of the negative balance is not received within ten working days of the final notice, 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.

Each school may conduct 10 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 Westmoreland 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.

Adopted: January 12, 2015  
Amended: April 18, 2016  
Amended: May 15, 2017

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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