

SCHOOL MEALS AND SNACKS

The Charlottesville City 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 Charlottesville City 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 Charlottesville City 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 Charlottesville City 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.

Nutritional Guidelines

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.

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.

Competitive foods meet the nutrient guidelines established by the Board of Education, including the guidelines for calories, fat, sugar and sodium.

"Fundraiser" means a school-sponsored activity where food or nonfood items are sold on the school campus during regular school hours by a school-sponsored organization to raise money for a school-related program or activity. One fundraiser is defined as one or more fundraising activities by one or more school-sponsored organizations that last one school day. If multiple school-sponsored organizations conduct fundraisers on the same day, the combined activities are counted as one fundraiser. If a fundraising activity lasts more than one school day, each subsequent day's activity is considered as one fundraiser and counts toward the total number of permitted fundraisers.

“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.

Each school may conduct three 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. Fundraisers are not conducted during school meal service times.

If any principal wants to approve additional fundraisers not meeting nutrition guidelines, the principal will seek approval from the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. The Charlottesville City 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.

Advertising and Marketing

Charlottesville City School Division permits the marketing and advertising of only foods that meet the nutrition guidelines for competitive foods, serve to promote student health, prevent childhood obesity, and combat problems associated with poor nutrition and physical inactivity.

Unpaid Meal Charges

Negative balance status can be avoided by making a payment in the form of cash directly sent to the cafeteria cashier. Additionally, one can pay by credit card on the Food Service online payment system called www.mypaymentsplus.com located on the District website under the Food Services section.

Students with a negative balance will be provided with lunch choices from the posted school menu. Any student whose account reaches the charge limit of \$25.00 and who does not bring a lunch from home will not be allowed to purchase a la carte foods.

Notices of low or negative balances in a student’s meal account are to be sent as well as orally communicated to parents/guardians and the school principal. Parents/Guardians whose student has a negative balance status must either pay the cash value of the school meal each day or bring a lunch from home. Monies deposited to a negative balance account must first be used to satisfy the negative balance. Balance reports for students with negative account balances will be reviewed weekly and sent home to parents/guardians.

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 director 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.

If payment of the negative balance is not received within 10 working days of the maximum charge limit being reached, the debt may be turned over to the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection. If the debt is not paid within 10 days after the school year has ended, it is considered bad debt for the purposes of federal law concerning 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:

A la carte foods are not part of the School Lunch Program and cannot be charged if a student has a zero or negative balance.

Recordkeeping

The Charlottesville School Board is responsible for maintaining records that document compliance with this policy. Those records include documentation used to assess the nutritional profile of food items and determine whether a food item is an allowable competitive food, such as recipes, nutrition labels and/or product specifications for the competitive food available for sale to students.

The School Board is also responsible for

- maintaining records documenting compliance with the competitive food nutrition standards for food available for sale in areas that are outside of the control of the school nutrition programs operations
- ensuring any organization or school activity designated as responsible for food service at the various venues in the school, other than the school nutrition programs, maintains records documenting compliance with the competitive food nutrition standards
- maintaining records each school year documenting the number of exempt fundraisers, if any, conducted at each school within the division
- designating an individual at the division or school level to monitor and ensure compliance with this policy in all areas that are outside the control of the school nutrition programs operation. The designee may not be a school nutrition personnel.

STUDENT SERVICES

Adopted: January 8, 2015
Revised: June 27, 2016
Revised: June 20, 2017
Revised: June 19, 2018

Legal Refs: 42 U.S.C. § 1758.

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.

7 C.F.R. 210.11.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-79.7, 22.1-207.4.

8 VAC 20-740-10.

8 VAC 20-740-30.

8 VAC 20-740-35.

8 VAC 20-740-40.

Cross References:

EFB	Free and Reduced Price Food Services
IGAE/IGAF	Health Education/Physical Education
JHCF	Student Wellness
JL	Fund Raising and Solicitation
KG	Sales and Solicitations in Schools
KJ	Advertising in the Schools
KQ	Commercial, Promotional and Corporate Sponsorships and Partnerships