

Policy Code: 6500 CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

All schools shall participate in the National Child Nutrition Program, under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Public Instruction, Division of Child Nutrition. All programs shall be operated in accordance with federal guidelines established by the Child Nutrition Division of the United States Department of Agriculture, state guidelines established by the State Department of Public Instruction and local guidelines established by Board policy.

A. Operational Standards

The school nutrition services program will be operated in a manner consistent with board goals and board policy. Specific legal requirements that must be met include, but are not limited to, the following.

1. School officials may not discriminate based on race, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, sexual orientation, and gender identity), color, national origin, disability, age, or eligibility status for free and reduced price meals. School officials are also prohibited from retaliating against an individual for prior civil rights activity.
2. The school nutrition services program will meet safety and sanitation requirements established in local, state, and federal rules and guidelines for school nutrition services programs.
3. The school nutrition services program will have a written food safety program that includes a hazard analysis critical control point plan for each school.
4. Menu preparation, purchasing, and related record keeping will be consistent with applicable state and federal rules and guidelines.
5. Banking, financial record keeping, budgeting, and accounting will be conducted in accordance with generally accepted practices and procedures, as dictated by the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act and in accordance with state and federal guidelines.
6. Commodity foods donated by the United States Department of Agriculture will be used and accounted for in accordance with federal regulations.
7. Preference will be given in purchasing contracts to high-calcium foods and beverages, as defined in [G.S. 115C-264.1](#) and to foods grown or raised within North Carolina.
8. Child Nutrition Program (CNP) funds will be used only for the purposes authorized by law. Indirect costs, as defined by law, will not be assessed to the CNP unless the program has an operating balance of at least two months.
9. The price for meals will be determined in accordance with federal law.
10. Non-program foods will be priced to generate sufficient revenues to cover the cost of those items. A non-program food is defined as a food or beverage, other than a reimbursable meal or snack, that is sold at the school and is purchased using funds from the child nutrition account.
11. All income from the sale of food and beverages that is required by law or regulation to be retained by the CNP will be deposited to the CNP account and will be used only for the purposes of the school's non-profit lunch and breakfast programs. All funds from food and beverage sales not otherwise

required by law to be deposited to the CNP account will be deposited into the proper school account in accordance with guidelines developed by the superintendent or designee.

12. All competitive foods sold on school campuses will meet federal and state standards for nutrient content. Competitive food sales are allowed only if profits accrue to the Child Nutrition Program and will be used solely by the Child Nutrition Program. All food or beverages sold to students must be provided by the Child Nutrition Program. All of the food and beverage items sold must meet the National School Child Nutrition Program Guidelines. No other food or beverages may be sold until 30 minutes after school is dismissed.

B. Meal Charges

Students who are required to pay for meals are expected to provide payment in a timely manner. The board recognizes, however, that students occasionally may forget or lose their meal money. In the event that a student is unable to pay for a meal on a particular day, the student may charge a reimbursable meal. To safeguard the dignity and confidentiality of students in the serving line, reasonable efforts must be used whenever possible to avoid calling attention to a student's inability to pay.

The child nutrition director and principal shall work jointly to prevent meal charges from accumulating and shall make every effort to collect all funds due to the child nutrition program on a regular basis and before the end of the school term.

Notices of low or negative balances in a child's meal account will be sent to parents and the principal at regular intervals during the school year. If a parent regularly fails to provide meal money and does not qualify for free meal benefits, the child nutrition director shall inform the principal, who shall 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 principal shall not impose any administrative penalties on a student for unpaid meal charges. Administrative penalties include with holding a student's records, prohibiting a student from participating in graduation, and denying a student a diploma.**

Parents are expected to pay all meal charges in full by the last day of each school year. Negative balances on student accounts will be carried forward to the following school year. However, the superintendent shall ensure that federal child nutrition funds are not used to offset the cost of unpaid meals and that the CNP is reimbursed for bad debt resulting from uncollected student meal charges prior to September 30 each year.

This policy and any applicable procedures regarding meal charges must be communicated to school administrators, school food service professional, parents, and students. Parents will receive a written copy of the meal charges policy and any applicable procedures at the start of each school year and at any time their child transfers into a new school during the school year.

LEGAL REF: Child Nutrition Act of 1966, [42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.](#); National School Lunch Act, [42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.](#), [7 C.F.R. pt. 210](#); [2 C.F.R. pt. 200](#); [7 C.F.R. pt. 215](#); [7 C.F.R. pt. 220](#); United States Department of Agriculture Policy Memos SP 46-2016 and

47-2016, available at

<http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/regulations-policies/usda-policy-memos/2016/2016usda-policymemos>;

https://www.fns.usda.gov/resources?f%5B0%5D=program%3A39&f%5B1%5D=resource_type%3A160&keywords=&page=1; [G.S. 115C-47\(7\)](#), [-47\(22\)](#), [-263](#), [-264](#), [-264.1](#), [-426](#), [-450](#), [-522](#); [147, art. 6E](#), [art. 6G](#); [16 N.C.A.C. 6H .0104](#); State Board of Education Policy [SHLT-000](#), [CHNU-002](#), [NCAC-6H.0004](#)

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Edenton-Chowan Schools