

BELLEVILLE HENDERSON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY MANUAL



2018

5660

1 of 4

Non-Instructional/Business
Operations

SUBJECT: SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (LUNCH AND BREAKFAST)

School Food Service Program (Lunch and Breakfast)

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and Special Milk Program, to receive commodities and subsidies from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In return, the District provides free and reduced-price meals to elementary and secondary students in its schools and serves meals that meet federal requirements.

The Superintendent or designee will carry out the rules of the School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. The District's Reviewing Official and Verification Official or the Department of Social Services Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) will determine student eligibility. Appeals regarding eligibility should be submitted to the District's Hearing Official.

The District may allow free or reduced-price meals for qualifying District students after receiving a written application from the student's parent or guardian or a direct certification letter from OTDA. Applications will be provided by the District to all families.

School officials must also determine eligibility for free or reduced-price meals and milk by using the Direct Certification Matching Process. Any student residing in a household receiving federal assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), or Medicaid is automatically eligible for free meals and milk; eligible families will not have to complete further applications. The District will notify parents or guardians of eligibility, giving them the opportunity to decline free meals and milk.

Parent Outreach

- a) Staff will communicate with parents/guardians with five or more meal charges to determine eligibility for free or reduced price meals.
- b) School staff will make two documented attempts to reach out to parents/guardians to complete a meal application in addition to the application and instructions provided in the school enrollment packet.
- c) School staff will contact the parent/guardian to offer assistance with completion of meal application to determine if there are other issues within the household causing the child to have insufficient funds, offering any other assistance that is appropriate.

Child Nutrition Program Authorization

Since the District participates in one or more Child Nutrition Program, the Superintendent has developed rules which address:

- a) What can be charged;
- b) The limit on the number of charges per student;
- c) The system used for identifying and recording charged meals;

(Continued)

BELLEVILLE HENDERSON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY MANUAL



2018

5660

2 of 4

Non-Instructional/Business
Operations

SUBJECT: SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (LUNCH AND BREAKFAST) (Cont'd.)

- d) The system used for collection of repayments; and
- e) Ongoing communication of this policy to parents. The District's meal-charge policy and procedures will be distributed to all households and applicable staff in writing at the start of each school year and to new households that transfer into the District during the school year. The policy and procedures may vary by grade. The District will also provide details regarding payment methods on its website.

Charging Meals

- a) The only item(s) permitted to be charged are a complete meal or milk. A la carte items such as snacks or ice cream may not be charged;
- b) The District's point-of-sale system will track all charges and payments;
- c) If a student comes to school without a lunch, and has exceeded the maximum reimbursable-meal limit, the District may provide a reimbursable meal (that is available to all students) so that he or she does not go hungry that day;
- d) As appropriate, District administration may contact Social Services to report a student's consistent failure to arrive at school with a meal; and
- e) The parent/guardian has the option to provide written permission to the school to withhold a meal if they wish.

Minimizing Student Distress

- a) School will not publicly identify or stigmatize any student on the line or discuss any outstanding meal debt in the presence of any other students;
- b) Students who incur meal charges will not be required to wear a wristband or hand stamp, or to do chores or work to pay for meals;
- c) Schools will not throw away a meal after it has been served because of the student's inability to pay for the meal or because of previous meal charges;
- d) Schools will not take any action directed at a pupil to collect unpaid school meal fees; and
- e) Schools will deal directly with parents/guardians regarding unpaid school meal fees.

Unpaid meal charges will be addressed directly with the student's parent or guardian who is responsible for providing funds for meal purchases; discreet notifications of low, exhausted, or deficit balances will be sent at appropriate intervals during the school year. The notification may include a repayment schedule, but will not charge any interest or fees related to meals charged during the grace period. District administration will further consider the benefits of attempted collections and the costs that would be expended in collection attempts.

(Continued)

BELLEVILLE HENDERSON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY MANUAL



2018 5660
3 of 4
Non-Instructional/Business
Operations

SUBJECT: SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (LUNCH AND BREAKFAST) (Cont'd.)

Restriction of Sweetened Foods in School

The sale of sweetened foods will be prohibited from the beginning of the school day until the end of the last scheduled meal period.

Sweetened foods consist of sweetened soda water; chewing gum; and candy, including hard candy, jellies, gum, marshmallow candies, fondant, licorice, spun candy, candy coated-popcorn, and water ices, except those which contain fruit or fruit juices.

Restrictions on Sale of Milk Prohibited

The District will not directly or indirectly restrict the sale or marketing of fluid milk products at any time or in any place on school premises or at school-sponsored events.

Food Substitutions for Children with Disabilities

Federal regulations governing the operation of Child Nutrition Programs, Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 require that children with disabilities be offered the opportunity to participate in all academic and nonacademic activities including school nutrition programs. The District will make reasonable accommodations to those children whose disabilities restrict their diets, such as providing substitutions or modifications in the regular meal patterns. These meal substitutions will be offered at no extra charge. A student with a disability must be provided substitutions in food when that need is supported by a statement signed by a physician attesting to the need for the substitutions and recommending alternate foods.

However, the school food service is not required to provide meal services (for example, School Breakfast Program) to students with disabilities when the meal service is not normally available to the general student body, unless a meal service is required under the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 Accommodation Plan as mandated by a physician's written instructions.

*Food Substitutions for Nondisabled Children

Though not required, the District will also allow substitutions for non-disabled children who are unable to consume the regular meal because of medical or other special dietary needs if the request is supported by a statement signed by a recognized medical authority.

The District may also allow substitutions for fluid milk with a non-dairy beverage that is nutritionally equivalent (as established by the Secretary of Agriculture) to fluid milk and meets nutritional standards for students who are unable to consume fluid milk because of medical or other special dietary needs if the request is supported by a statement signed by a recognized medical authority or by the student's parent/legal guardian.

Prohibition Against Adults Charging Meals

Adults must pay for their meals at the time of service or set up pre-paid accounts.

***District Option**

(Continued)

BELLEVILLE HENDERSON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY MANUAL



2018

5660

4 of 4

Non-Instructional/Business
Operations

SUBJECT: SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (LUNCH AND BREAKFAST) (Cont'd.)

HACCP-Based Food Safety Program

Schools participating in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast programs are required to implement a food safety program based on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles. The District must develop a written food safety program for each of its food preparation and service facilities that is based on either traditional HACCP principles or the Process Approach to HACCP. (The Process Approach simplifies traditional HACCP by grouping foods according to preparation process and applying the same control measures to all menu items within the group, rather than developing an HACCP plan for each item.)

Regardless of the implementation option selected, the District's written food safety program must also include:

- a) Critical control points and critical limits;
- b) Monitoring procedures;
- c) Corrective actions;
- d) Verification procedures;
- e) Recordkeeping requirements; and
- f) Periodic review and food safety program revision.

Training

The Director and staff attends training as required by NYS standards.

Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, PL 108-265

Child Nutrition Act 1966, 42 USC § 1771 et seq.

Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act 1946, 42 USC § 1751 et seq.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC § 794 et seq.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 USC §§ 1400-1485

7 CFR Parts 15B, 210 and 220

Education Law §§ 902(b), 915, 918, 1604(28), 1709(22), 1709(23) and 2503(9)(a)

8 NYCRR §§ 200.2(b)(1) and 200.2(b)(2)

Social Services Law § 95

Adoption Date: October 22, 2018