

# ARTICLE V: FOOD SERVICE

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**POLICY 4-5.1 FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM**

**Generally**

The Hanover County School Board participates in the National School Breakfast and School Lunch Programs at the elementary and middle school levels, and operates an a la carte meal program at the high school level. The division superintendent is authorized to develop and implement an efficient and effective food services system for the students and employees of the school division.

**Purposes**

The School Board recognizes the food service program as an integral part of the educational program. The food service program shall provide a practical form of education in nutrition and sanitation. It shall assist in safeguarding the health and well-being of students and aid in the development of good food habits. The food service program shall provide nutritional meals (breakfasts and lunches) on a daily basis and shall be available to all students, adult staff members and employees as required by law.

**Financial Operation**

The food service program shall be operated on a nonprofit, self-supporting basis with lunches being furnished to students and school personnel at a reasonable charge. The school lunch program shall be financed by federal and state funds, local funds and monies received from students, adult staff members and employees. From time to time the division superintendent shall report to the School Board on the financial status of the school division’s food service operations.

**Lunchroom Standards**

School food service operations shall comply with all applicable standards and requirements of the Virginia Department of Education and the state and local health departments.

**National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs**

All school food service operations participating in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs shall function in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

**LEGAL REFERENCE:** Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-24, 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-89.1, 22.1-207.3; Virginia Board of Education Regulations Governing School Lunch – Sale of Food Items, 8 VAC 20-290-10, et. seq, and Governing School Breakfast Programs 8 VAC 20-580-10, et. seq.; National School Lunch Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751-1760; Child Nutrition Act of 1966, P.L. 89-612, 80 STAT 885, as amended.

*Recodified August 2000*

**ACCOMPANYING REGULATION**

**REGULATION 4-5.1 GUIDELINES FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE LUNCHES**

**National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs**

Detailed regulations pertaining to provision of free and reduced priced meals are found in the "Policy Statement for Free and Reduced Price Meals" which is mandated by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Virginia State Department of Education.

The following practices shall be maintained by all Hanover County Public Schools regarding the determination of eligibility for free and reduced price meals and to safeguard against discrimination between paying and nonpaying students.

1. Principals shall determine which students are eligible for a free or reduced price meal in the individual schools, in accordance with the guidelines and income scales outlined in the "Policy Statement for Free and Reduced Price Meals".
2. Application forms will be sent to parents at the beginning of each school year. If the economic circumstances of a family change during the year, an updated application can be submitted to the school principal for redetermination of eligibility. Completed applications are to be maintained on file in the principal's office for the current year plus the last three years.
3. When an application is denied parents or guardians, they will be informed of the reason for denial and will be referred to the hearing official designated in the "Policy Statement" if they plan to appeal.
4. The point of sale systems in use in the school cafeterias operate so that the meal benefit status of each child is not overtly identified as sales are made. No special tokens or tickets are used by any category of student.

### **A La Carte Program**

The a la carte program operated at the high school level receives no federal, state, or local funding. This allows the program to offer a wider variety of items to satisfy student tastes. In order to make meals more affordable for families with economic hardships, a meal credit will be offered.

A meal credit will be offered to high school students that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- 1) Foster Child status,
- 2) VA TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families) payments are currently received for the child, and/or
- 3) The child is a member of a household that currently receives food stamps.

Applications for meal credit will be sent home with all students at the beginning of each school year and will be available from the school office throughout the school year. Completed applications will be returned to the school for review by the designated administrator. Applicants will be notified of approval or denial following review of the application. Applications may be reviewed for verification information at any time during the school year.

### **General Guidelines for School Lunch**

Schools participating in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs shall abide by all applicable state and federal regulations. Schools operating under the "a-la-carte" program are funded solely by local sales revenue and therefore are not governed by state and federal food service regulations. High schools will continue to offer all components of the school lunch program, as well as additional and varied menu items.

For schools participating in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs, all income from sale of all food and drink items sold in the school from 6:00 a.m. until the

close of the last breakfast period and then from the beginning of the lunch period until the close of the last lunch period will accrue to the school cafeteria account and be used only for school food service programs.

**POLICY 4-5.2 FOOD SANITATION PROGRAM**

The personnel and facilities used for food services in the Hanover County Public Schools are subject to state laws regulating restaurants and other food establishments. The Health Department assumes the responsibility of inspecting the school facilities, food preparation, and issuing food handler's permits.

**LEGAL REFERENCE:** Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Title 35.1.

*Recodified August 2000*

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