

## **Business and Non-Instructional Operations**

### **FOOD SERVICE**

**3542(a)**

The Board of Education recognizes that students require adequate, nourishing food and beverages in order to grow, learn, and maintain good health. It is the intent of the Board that district schools take a proactive role in encouraging students to make nutritious food choices. The Board further directs that students be provided adequate space and time to eat meals during the school day in a positive, hygienic, and supervised environment.

The Superintendent shall ensure that all students have access to school meals regardless of race, color, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, disability, or income level.

#### **Program Aims**

District policies governing school nutrition programs shall aim to:

1. Provide cafeteria facilities in all schools that support equitable access to food services;
2. Offer nutritionally balanced and appealing meals that meet or exceed the federal Dietary Guidelines for Americans and related USDA standards;
3. Serve meals in a clean, supervised environment with sufficient time allotted for eating;
4. Prioritize food procurement and practices that support environmental sustainability, local agriculture, and student health, when feasible within budgetary constraints; and
5. Provide free or reduced-price meals to students in need, as determined through appropriate federal and district eligibility guidelines.

#### **Facilities and Operations**

Wherever possible, school cafeterias shall include:

1. Attractive, well-ventilated, and adequately sized dining spaces;
2. Proper storage areas for food and supplies; and
3. Regular inspection, maintenance, and repair of kitchen and serving equipment to ensure safety and efficiency.

#### **Food Safety and Sanitation**

The District shall maintain high standards of sanitation and food safety throughout all phases of food preparation and service, consistent with local, state, and federal regulations.

1. All food service workers shall be trained in personal hygiene and food safety procedures.
2. Schools shall obtain at least two health inspections per year, and the most recent inspection report shall be posted and made available to the public upon request.
3. The District shall maintain a written Food Safety Program in compliance with USDA regulations and 7 CFR §§210.13 and 220.7 to reduce the risk of foodborne illness.

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#### **Financing and Oversight**

The school nutrition program shall be operated as a nonprofit service in compliance with the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) requirements.

1. Meal Pricing: The Superintendent shall set school meal prices based on actual costs of food, labor, supplies, and overhead, while complying with state and federal pricing guidance.
2. Financial Management:
  - A separate food service fund shall be maintained under the control of the district Finance Office.
  - All program revenues—including federal reimbursements and student payments—shall be deposited into this fund.
  - The fund shall be subject to an annual audit by the district’s auditors.
3. District Contributions: Costs such as facilities, utilities, and major equipment may be covered by general fund appropriations at the Board’s discretion.
4. While the Board expects the food services operation to strive for financial sustainability, this shall not override the priority of ensuring student access to nutritious meals.

#### **Related Policies**

- 3542.22 – Food Service Code of Conduct
- 3542.31 – Free or Reduced Price Lunches
- 3542.33 – Food Sales Other than National School Lunch Program
- 3542.41 – Professional Standards for Food Service Personnel
- 3542.42 – Food Service Finances
- 3542.43 – Food Service Charging

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**3542(c)**

Legal References:      Connecticut General Statutes:  
                                 § 10-215 to § 10-216 – School meal programs and reimbursement  
                                 § 10-215b – Duties of the State Board re: feeding programs  
                                 § 10-215d – Nutrition standards for school meals (as amended by PA 16-37)  
                                 § 22-38d – Farm to School Program  
  
                                 Federal Statutes and Regulations:  
                                 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq. – National School Lunch & Breakfast Programs  
                                 7 CFR Parts 210, 215, 220, 245 – USDA regulations  
                                 7 CFR Part 15b – Nondiscrimination based on disability  
                                 P.L. 111-296 – Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

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