

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Related Entries: EB-RA

Responsible Offices: FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

STUDENT NUTRITION SERVICES – WHOLE SCHOOL

A. PURPOSE

To establish a policy that addresses student nutrition standards encompassing the whole school environment for all foods and beverages made available on school property or through school-sponsored events. To also promote the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Whole School model which is student-centered and emphasizes the role of the community in supporting the school, the connections between health and academic achievement, and the importance of evidence-based school policies and practices.

B. ISSUE

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) recognizes that healthy foods and beverages contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

C. POSITION

1. AACPS promotes nutrition and nutrition education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness.
2. School breakfast and lunch service shall be provided every school day at all schools as practicable.
3. School meals shall provide students with well-balanced nutrition that shall meet or exceed the nutrition standards and regulations established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Maryland State Department of Education.
4. No foods or beverages offered for sale on school premises may compete with the *National School Lunch Program* or the *School Breakfast Program*.
5. Foods made available on school property or through school-sponsored activities shall comply with federal, State, and local laws, regulations and standards.

6. Children require sufficient quantities of nutritious food for proper growth. Food and Nutrition Services promotes growth and development by providing students with healthy food choices. These choices include whole grains, vegetables, fruits, fat-free and low-fat milk products, and other calcium-rich foods, beans, lean meat, poultry, fish, and other protein-rich foods.
7. Foods and beverages offered in elementary, middle, and high schools, as an alternate to or in addition to the reimbursable meal, shall be offered in portion sizes that are age appropriate and consistent with federal, State, and local laws, regulations and standards. These foods shall comply with USDA *Smart Snacks in School* nutrition standards, which are approved via the Alliance for Healthier Generation *Smart Snacks Product Calculator*.
8. Schools are encouraged to promote healthy food and beverage choices for school events where foods and beverages are available, and for the school administration vending machines. The marketing and advertising of foods and beverages shall comply with USDA *Smart Snacks in School* nutrition standards and the *Maryland Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in Schools*.
9. Schools are encouraged to consider wellness issues and student allergies when planning incentive and promotional activities.
10. The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) supports a coordinated approach for the management of food allergies in the school environment to reduce the risk of food allergy related complications in students.
11. School staff is encouraged to set a positive example by following nutrition guidelines, as defined above, when interacting with students.
12. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to complete a *Free and Reduced Meals Application* to determine if their child(ren) is eligible for free or reduced meals. *Free and Reduced Meals Applications* are available on the AACPS website and may be submitted at any time during the school year. Assistance is available to complete a *Free and Reduced Meals Application* in multiple languages.
13. AACPS shall provide guidance and information regarding nutrition to school administrators and organization representatives, as necessary.
14. The prices of school meals and milk shall be approved annually by the Board.

D. IMPLEMENTATION

The Superintendent is authorized to develop regulations to implement this policy.

Policy History: Adopted on 07/12/06; Revised 04/23/15; 09/06/17; 04/21/21

Note Previous Policy History: Replaces Policy 701, adopted 01/02/80 and revised 01/07/90
Replaces Policy 701.01, adopted 09/03/69 and revised 03/07/90
Replaces Policy 701.02, adopted 11/04/70 and revised 03/07/90
Replaces Policy 701.03, adopted 07/03/74 and revised 11/20/89, 12/04/96

Legal Reference: Section 7-125 of the Education Article; The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010