Note: The following optional policy may be revised to reflect district philosophy and needs.

The School Board recognizes that students need adequate, nourishing food in order to grow, learn, and to give a good foundation for their future physical well-being. The Board may provide for a food service program based on regular lunch service and include other snack and breakfast programs as the needs of the students and the financial capacity of the district permit. The Board recognizes that breakfast, lunch and other nutrition programs are an important complement to the nutritional responsibilities of parents/guardians.

The Board believes that:

1. Foods and beverages available on school premises should contribute to the nutritional well-being of students and meet the nutritional criteria of the applicable child nutrition program operating in the District. Nutrition programs must comply with applicable state and federal law.
2. Foods can help students and families feel comfortable in the school. The District may include cultural and subsistence foods if available and can be served in compliance with school safety and nutritional programs.
3. Foods and beverages available should be considered as carefully as other educational support materials as they can serve to build cultural connectedness for students.
4. Foods and beverages should be prepared in ways which will appeal to students while retaining nutritive quality.
5. To further Alaskan values, food and beverages should be prepared and served in ways that reduce waste.
6. Food should be served in quantities appropriate to the needs of students at their age level and served in as pleasant and relaxed an atmosphere as possible, with adequate time for students to eat and travel to and from the cafeteria.
7. Schools are encouraged to assess common eating habits and eating times to establish appropriate meal and snack times.
8. Foods grown in the state provide nutritional, environmental, and economic benefits and should be utilized in the district's food service program to the extent feasible.
9. The District and its schools will have food safety plans and written guidance for procuring, receiving, and preparing subsistence foods harvested and donated to the school.
10. The District will include subsistence foods as a part of the nutritional and dietary guidelines for Americans.

Note: Effective January 14, 2010, the U.S. Department of Agriculture requires schools participating in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs to develop a written food safety program for the preparation and serving of school meals. The goal is to prevent and reduce the risk of food-borne illness among students. Schools are required to utilize the "hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) system" when developing their food safety programs. A written safety program must be in place for each food preparation and service facility that prepares and serves meals under the federal breakfast or lunch programs.

The Superintendent or designee will oversee the development of a written food safety program for each food preparation and serving facility in the district, as required by law. Foods and beverages will be stored, prepared and served in accordance with food safety regulations in order to prevent or reduce the risk of food-borne illness among students.

FOOD SERVICE (continued) BP 3550(b)

Note: Effective July 1, 2015, federal regulations of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, require that certain food service personnel meet minimum professional standards. More specifically, school nutrition program directors who are responsible for management of the day-to-day food service operations for all schools in the district must meet minimum educational qualifications as a condition of hire. The qualifications vary depending upon the student enrollment (size) of the district. The qualification requirements are applicable to the hire of new directors only; current directors employed prior to the July 1, 2015 effective date are grandfathered. In addition, the new regulations require minimum continuing education and training requirements for all student nutrition staff, including school nutrition program directors, school nutrition program managers who are responsible for day-to-day operations of food service for a particular school, and other personnel who work an average of at least 20 hours per week. The hours of continuing education/training varies depending upon the position held by the individual.

Qualified and trained food service personnel are critical to a healthy and safe food service program. The Superintendent or designee shall hire qualified personnel and/or an independent contractor, taking into consideration professional standards required by law, and will ensure that continuing education and training is provided to food service personnel in compliance with applicable state and federal standards.

(cf. 4131 – Staff Development)

The School Board intends that, insofar as possible, the school food services program shall be self-supporting and may include foods from school gardens, greenhouses and farms. The Board shall review and approve of menu prices. Program financial reports shall be presented regularly for inspection by the Board.

(cf. 3554 – Other Food Sales)
(cf. 5040 – Student Nutrition and Physical Activity)
(cf. 6163.4 – School Gardens, Greenhouses and Farms)

Effective January 1, 2028, as part of its breakfast and lunch program, the District may not serve a food or beverage that contains any of the following color additives certified by the United States Food and Drug Administration under 21 U.S.C. 379e:

1. red dye 3 (U.S. Chemical Abstracts Service no. 16423-68-0);
2. red dye 40 (U.S. Chemical Abstracts Service no. 25956-17-6);
3. yellow dye 5 (U.S. Chemical Abstracts Service no. 1934-21-0);
4. yellow dye 6 (U.S. Chemical Abstracts Service no. 2783-94-0);
5. blue dye 1 (U.S. Chemical Abstracts Service no. 3844-45-9);
6. blue dye 2 (U.S. Chemical Abstracts Service no. 860-22-0); or
7. green dye 3 (U.S. Chemical Abstracts Service no. 2353-45-9).

Legal references on the next page.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES
AS 14.30.360 Health education curriculum; physical activity guidelines
AS 14.03.087 Prohibited food additives

UNITED STATES CODE
Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751-1769j
Child Nutrition Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 1771-1793

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS
7 C.F.R. Parts 210, 220, and 235 National School Lunch Program and Breakfast Program

FEDERAL REGISTER
Professional Standards for State and Local School Nutrition Programs Personnel as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, Vol. 80, No. 40 and No. 88 (2015)

Revised
10/2021
11/2026