



**NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Nancy Rock, President  
Members of the School Board

**THROUGH:** David Vadiveloo, Chief School Administrator <sup>DSV</sup>

**FROM:** Rick Luthi, Chief Operating Officer & <sup>DS</sup> <sup>REL</sup>  
MJ Geiser, Assistant Superintendent <sup>MG</sup>

**DATE:** August 30, 2022

**SUBJECT: Donated Foods in School**

**Memo No: SB23-027**  
(Informational Item)

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**NSBSD Strategic Plan Goals:**

- 1.7 Student Well-Being: Support the physical, nutritional, mental, and social-emotional health of all students.
- 2.0 Community Engagement: Foster collective responsibility, commitment, and trust between the school and community.
- 2.2 Community in the School: Include elders, parents, and community members in school academics and activities and utilize community resources and expertise in learning.
- 3.4 Staff Cultural Integration: Provide cultural training and hands-on experiences for teachers and Principals to enhance cultural understanding and integration.
- 4.1 Financial Stewardship/Management: Ensure financial management based on what is best for our students.

**NSBSD Board Policy Manual:**

BP 3290, Gifts, Grants, and Bequests: The School Board greatly appreciates the support of community members and may accept suitable donations on behalf of the district. To be acceptable, a gift, grant, or bequest should satisfy the following criteria: (1) Not begin a program that the Board would be unwilling to continue when the donated funds are exhausted; (2) Not entail undesirable or hidden costs, such as additional staff workload; (3) Place no restrictions on the school program; (4) Not be inappropriate or harmful to the best education of students; (5) Not imply endorsement of any business or product; (6) Not conflict with any provision of the Board Policy or public law; (7) Have a purpose consistent with those of the district.

BP 5040, Student Nutrition and Physical Activity: ...Traditional cultural foods may be exempted from the nutritional requirements when offered free of charge and for educational purposes. Traditional cultural foods offered as a part of the school breakfast or lunch program must meet nutritional requirements.

**Issue Summary:**

As stated by the Alaska Division of Environmental Health, Food Safety & Sanitation Program, the Alaska Food Code allows the donation of traditional wild game meat, seafood, plants, and other food to a food service of an institution or a nonprofit program with the exception of certain foods that are prohibited because of significant health hazards.

According to the Farm Bill Section 4033, and the Alaska Food Code 13 AAC 31, Alaska traditional foods are allowed to be served in food service programs. Traditional Alaskan foods include wild game meats, fish, seafood, marine mammals, plants, and berries. There are some exceptions, which are as follows:

- Fox, polar bear, and bear meat
- Walrus meat
- Seal or whale oil
- Fermented meat (beaver tail, whale or seal flipper, maktak)
- Fermented seafood (salmon eggs, fish, fish heads)
- Hermetically sealed low-acid food (home canned fish)
- Reduced-oxygen packaged food (home vacuum sealed)
- Smoked or dried meat or seafood

Below are some permissible animal products:

- Caribou
- Duck
- Fish
- Eggs (Raw, intact)
- Goose
- Moose
- Seal meat
- Whale

For a complete review of traditional foods in schools and resources, see the below link:

<https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/food/retail/traditional-foods/>

For more information, the local Environment Health Officer for the North Slope is in Fairbanks:

Contact Information: 907-451-2112

Mailing/Physical Address: 610 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

In order to accept donated game or fish:

1. The hunter must fill out a Transfer of Possession form from the Department of Fish and Game
2. Ensure fish is received whole or headed, gutted, and gilled; Wild game are roasts or larger, such as quarters.
3. Ensure the animal was not diseased
4. Ensure the food was butchered, dressed, transported, and stored to prevent contamination, undesirable microbial growth, or deterioration.

Resources included are:

- USDA Service of Traditional Foods in Public Facilities
- USDA Bringing Tribal Foods and Traditions into Cafeterias, Classrooms, and Gardens
- Donated Foods We Can Accept poster
- Donated Traditional Foods poster
- Transfer of Possession Form
- Receipt of Donated Game Form
- Donated Meat Labels