

SCHOOL MEALS AND SNACKS

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board recognizes that students need adequate, nourishing food in order to learn, grow, and maintain good health.

Generally

To reinforce the school's nutrition education program, foods sold during regular school hours on school premises will be

- carefully selected so as to contribute to students' nutritional well-being and the prevention of disease;
- prepared in ways that will appeal to students, retain nutritive quality, and foster lifelong healthful eating habits; and
- served in age-appropriate quantities and at reasonable prices.

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board promotes high-quality school meals and snacks by

- involving students in the selection, tasting, and marketing of healthy foods and beverages that appeal to students;
- providing a variety of food options, such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and dairy foods, which are low in fat and added sugars;
- offering a variety of healthy choices that appeal to students, including cultural and ethnic favorites;
- restricting student access to unhealthy foods in vending machines, school stores, and other venues that compete with healthy school meals; and
- ensuring that healthy snacks and foods are provided in vending machines, school stores, and other venues within the school's control. The healthy options should cost the same or less than unhealthy alternatives.

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Regional Board strives to provide an environment conducive to good health by

- allowing an adequate amount of time and space for students to eat school meals;
- scheduling lunch periods at reasonable hours around midday;
- ensuring that drinking fountains are operable, clean, and convenient for use throughout the school day;
- offering extracurricular physical activity programs, such as physical activity clubs, intramural programs, or interscholastic athletics;
- discouraging the promotion and advertising of unhealthy foods;
- using non-food items rather than food items such as candy, cakes, soda, and foods high in fat, as incentives and rewards for good behavior or academic performance; and
- encouraging parents to support the school's nutrition education efforts by considering nutritional quality when selecting any snacks which they may donate for occasional class parties.

The Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional Board supports nutrition education and physical education by

- ensuring that qualified nutrition education and physical education specialists focus on knowledge and skill development so students are able to learn and adopt healthy eating and physical activity behaviors;
- offering nutrition education in the school dining area(s) and in the classroom, with coordination between food service staff and teachers; and
- eliminating any stigma attached to, and preventing public identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

Meals and Snacks

Meals and snacks offered as part of the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program meet, at a minimum, the requirements established by state and federal law and regulation.

Schools make potable water available and accessible without restriction to children at no charge in the place(s) where lunches are served during the meal service.

Competitive Foods

Definitions

“Competitive food” means all food and beverages other than meals reimbursed under programs authorized by the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day.

“School campus” means all areas of the property under the jurisdiction of the school that are accessible to students during the school day.

“School day” means the period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.

All competitive food sold to students on the school campus during the school day meets the nutrition standards specified by federal and state law and regulation.

The school may conduct (30) school-sponsored fundraisers per school year during which food that does not meet the nutrition guidelines for competitive foods may be available for sale to students.

The Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School Regional Board is responsible for maintaining records that document compliance with this policy. Those records include receipts, nutrition labels and/or product specifications for the competitive food available for sale to students.

Adopted: June 16, 2016

Legal Refs: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-207.4.

Virginia Board of Education, A Resolution to Establish and Define Exemptions for School-Sponsored Fundraisers Pending Incorporation in the Proposed Regulations Governing Nutritional Guidelines for Competitive Foods Available for Sale in the Public Schools (Nov. 19, 2015).

Cross Refs: Pol. No. 7006 Free and Reduced Price Food Services
Pol. No. 3012 Health Education/Physical Education
Pol. No. 4075 Student Wellness (*under development*)
Pol. No. 7013 Commercial, Promotional and Corporate Sponsorships and Partnerships (*under development*)