

**Policy**

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FREE OR REDUCED PRICE LUNCHES/MILK

It is the policy of the Shore Regional High School Board of Education that this school district shall participate in any federal or state subsidized food program for the benefit of eligible students.

Student eligibility shall be as determined by the guidelines of the subsidizing agency. The board requires that all regulations of the subsidizing agency be observed including and especially those which preserve the privacy of eligible students.

Offer Versus Serve

In order to reduce plate waste and food costs relating to reimbursable meals, the district will participate in the Offer Versus Serve program, as described in this policy.

Offer Versus Serve for both lunch and breakfast shall be implemented in accordance with law and this policy.

Food service staff members shall be trained annually in the provisions of this policy

Offer Versus Serve Lunch

Students receiving reimbursable meals may decline a certain number of food components in the meal.

A school lunch eligible for Federal reimbursement shall offer five food components in the appropriate amounts per grade grouping:

- A. Fruit;
- B. Vegetable;
- C. Milk;
- D. Grain; and
- E. Meat/Meat Alternate.

Students shall be permitted to decline two of the five required food components, but must select at least a half cup of either fruit (or fruit combination) or a half cup of vegetable (or vegetable combination) or half cup of a fruit/vegetable combination. After selecting the half cup fruit or vegetable requirement, students must select at least two additional full components in the full amounts (per age/grade grouping required amounts) to count toward the reimbursable offer versus serve meal.

The student's decision to accept all five food components or to decline two food components shall not affect the price charged for the meal as the lunch is priced as a unit. If students do not choose enough food items to comprise a reimbursable meal, a la carte prices will be charged.

School staff members shall not require a child to take a particular food component. It is the student's choice

to select the components of the reimbursable meal.

Food service staff members will be trained annually on the provisions of the district's lunch offer versus serve policy.

### Offer Versus Serve Breakfast

Students receiving reimbursable breakfasts may decline a certain number of food components in the meal.

All school breakfasts eligible for Federal reimbursement shall offer four food items from the three food components in the appropriate amounts per grade grouping:

- A. Fruit or vegetable or juice;
- B. Milk; and
- C. Grains (including optional meat/meat alternate).

Students shall be permitted to decline one of the four food items offered. A student's decision to accept all four food items or to decline one food item shall not affect the price charged for the meal. The breakfast is priced as a unit. If students do not choose enough food items to comprise a reimbursable meal, a la carte prices will be charged.

School staff, including food service staff, shall not make exceptions to this policy, such as requiring every student to take a particular food component. It is the student's choice to select any three (3) or all four (4) components of the reimbursable meal.

The board hereby adopts as its own the free and reduced price policy developed by the bureau of child nutrition programs pursuant to federal regulations.

Adopted: No date  
NJSBA Review/Update: March 2012, October 2021  
Readopted: July 26, 2012

### Key Words

Free Lunch, School Lunch, Lunch, Milk, Reduced-price Lunches/Milk

**Legal References:**

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:333	Cafeterias for students
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:334	School lunch; availability to all children
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:335	Exemptions
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:3310	Establishment of school breakfast program in certain schools
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:3311	Implementation of school breakfast program by district
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:587.1 through 7.2	School lunch program
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 2:36-1.2	Policy and agreement for school nutrition programs
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 2:36-1.8	Review and evaluation

### Possible

**Cross References:**

*2224	Affirmative action/nondiscrimination
*3000/3010	Concepts and roles in business and non instructional operations; goals and objectives
*3220/3230	State funds; federal funds
*3450	Money in school buildings

*3510	Operation and maintenance of plant
*3542	Food Service
*3542.1	Wellness and nutrition
*3542.44	Purchasing
*4222	Non Instructional aides
9123	Appointment of board secretary
9124	Appointment of business official

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.