

## **Business/Non-Instructional Operations**

### **Food Service - Purposes and Facilities**

The CREC Council recognizes that students require adequate, nourishing food and beverages in order to grow, learn, and maintain good health. The district school meal program shall be an integral part of the total educational program, and schools/programs shall take proactive steps to encourage students to make nutritious food choices.

CREC schools/programs shall offer meals to all students without regard to race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or disability.

CREC shall provide school meals that meet the standards set by state and federal school breakfast and lunch programs; and the dietary specifications of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 and applicable state laws and regulations.

To accomplish CREC's food services objectives with appropriate economy, all administration of the food services program will be coordinated in the office of the Executive Director or designee.

### **Aims**

The school lunch program shall aim to:

1. Provide cafeteria facilities in all schools/programs whenever practicable.
2. Provide wherever cafeteria facilities exist nutritionally balanced and attractive lunches available to all students with sufficient time allowed for eating.
3. Provide lunches free or at reduced rates to students whose economic or health needs so require.

### **Facilities**

Wherever possible, cafeteria facilities shall include:

1. Attractive, well-ventilated dining rooms.
2. A carefully planned, well-equipped kitchen adjacent to the dining area.
3. Adequate storage space to permit purchasing food and supplies in sufficient quantity to take advantage of favorable market conditions.
4. Maintenance, inspection, and repair of equipment to ensure maximum use and minimize danger of accidents.

### **Maintenance of sanitary conditions**

Sanitary conditions shall be rigidly maintained at all times in all phases of the preparation and serving of food.

The Food Services Director shall be responsible for the education of all food handlers on personal hygiene and sanitation techniques.

All cafeteria workers shall be required to have a physical examination at the time of employment and periodically thereafter, as determined by the CREC medical advisor.

### **Farm to School Program**

Any bid submitted by a service management company in response to a request for proposal (RFP) or bid solicitation by CREC that is posted to the State portal and that relates to CREC's school nutrition program shall include information detailing the consistency of such proposal or bid with the State's Farm to School Program, and the ways in which such proposal or bid facilitates the purchase of products from local farmers. All other factors being equal, CREC shall give preference to the proposal or bid that promotes the purchase of local farm products.

Any person who sells any farm product as Connecticut-grown to CREC is required to offer proof that such farm product was produced in Connecticut, including, but not limited to, the name of the person or business that produced the farm product and the name and address of the farm where such product was produced.

### **Food Service-Beverage Sale**

The sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes is permitted, provided that the following conditions are met:

- the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend;
- the sale is at the location of the event; and
- the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store.

An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The "school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the food sales.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-215 Lunches, breakfasts and other feeding programs for public school children and employees.

10-215b Duties of State Board of Education re feeding programs

**3542.1**

10-215d Regulations re nutrition standards for school breakfasts and lunches  
22-38d. Farm to school program.

Policy adopted:  
Revised: June 21, 2017  
Revised: May 15, 2019  
Revised: January 15, 2025

CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL  
Hartford, Connecticut