

## **Business and Non-Instructional Operations**

### **Nutrition Program**

The Orange Board of Education recognizes that healthy eating patterns are essential for students to achieve their academic potential, full physical and mental growth and lifelong health and well-being. To help ensure students possess the knowledge and skills necessary to make nutritious food choices for a lifetime, the Superintendent shall prepare and implement a comprehensive District nutrition program consistent with state and federal requirements for districts sponsoring the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or the School Breakfast Program (SBP). The input of staff, students, parents and public health professionals will be encouraged.

The program shall reflect the Board's commitment to providing adequate time for instruction to promote healthy eating through nutrition education, serving healthy and appealing foods at Orange District schools, developing food-use guidelines for staff and establishing liaisons with nutrition service providers, as appropriate. Nutrition education topics shall be integrated within the sequential, comprehensive health education program taught at every grade level, pre-kindergarten through grade 6, and coordinated with the Orange District's nutrition and food services operation.

It is the intent of the Orange Board that the schools take a proactive effort to encourage students to make nutritious food choices. Food and beverages sold or served on school grounds or at District-sponsored events shall meet federal and state statutes and regulations as well as administrative regulation requirements for nutritional standards and/or other guidelines as may be recommended by District and school health and nutrition committees.

Food and beverages sold or served in District schools shall include nutritious, low-fat foods and drinks, which may include, but shall not be limited to, low-fat dairy products, and fresh or dried fruit at all times when food or drink is available for purchase by students during the school day.

The sale of beverages to students from any source, including, but not limited to, school stores, school cafeterias, and any fund-raising activities on school grounds, whether or not school-sponsored, shall be restricted to milk, non-dairy drinks such as soy or rice milk, 100% fruit juices, vegetable juices or combination of such juices, beverages that contain only water or vegetable juice and water. All allowed beverages must fulfill the requirements specified in Connecticut statute regarding artificial sweeteners, flavoring, caffeine, and portion size.

The Superintendent shall ensure that nutritious foods are available as an affordable option whenever food is sold or served on District property or at district-sponsored events; that schools limit the sale or serving of foods or snacks high in fat, sodium or added sugars; and competition with nutritious meals served by the school nutrition and food services operation is minimized.

Although the Orange Board believes that the District's nutrition and food services operation should be financially self-supporting, it recognizes, however, that the nutrition program is an essential educational and support activity. Therefore, budget neutrality or profit generation must not take precedence over the nutrition needs of its students. In compliance with federal law, the District's NSLP [and SBP] shall be nonprofit.

The Superintendent is directed to develop administrative regulations to implement this policy, including such provisions as may be necessary to address all food and beverages sold and/or served to students at school and made available at school parties, celebrations and meetings, including provisions for staff development, family and community involvement, and program evaluation.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, the Orange District is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. The USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 14000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410 or (800)-795-3272 may be contacted to file a complaint of discrimination.

(cf. 6142.6 – Physical Education)

(cf. [3542](#) – Food Service)

(cf. [3542.33](#) – Food Sales Other Than National School Lunch Program)

(cf. [3542.34](#) – Nutrition Program)

(cf. 3452.45 – Vending Machines)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-215](#) Lunches, breakfasts and the feeding programs for public school children and employees.

[10-221](#) Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.

[10-215a](#) Non-public school participation in feeding program.

[10-215b](#) Duties of state board of education re feeding programs.

[10-216](#) Payment of expenses.

[10-215b-1](#) State board of education regulation

[10-221o](#) Lunch periods. Recess

[10-221p](#) Boards to make available for purchase nutritious low fat foods and drinks

PA 06-63 An Act Concerning Healthy Food and Beverages in Schools

Policy adopted: May 13, 2013