

# Hopewell Township Board of Education District Policy Manual

**Business & Non-Instructional Operations**

**Series 3000**

**Free or Reduced-Price Lunches / Breakfasts / Milk**

**Policy 3542.31**

Date Adopted: September 11, 1978

Date Revised: November 13, 2006, June 9, 2016,  
March 13, 2017

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It is the policy of the Board of Education that this school district participates in any federal or state subsidized food program for the benefit of eligible pupils.

Eligibility shall be as determined by the guidelines of the subsidizing agency. The Board requires that all regulations of the subsidizing agency be observed, especially those that preserve the privacy of eligible pupils.

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.

### 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.

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

### Lunch Offer Versus Serve

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

A school lunch eligible for federal reimbursement shall offer five (5) food components in the appropriate amounts per grade grouping:

- Fruit;
- Vegetable;
- Milk;
- Grain; and,
- Meat/Meat Alternate.

Students may decline two (2) of the five (5) required food components, but must select at least ½ cup of either fruit (or fruit combination) or a ½ cup of vegetable (or vegetable combination) or ½ cup of a fruit/vegetable combination.

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After selecting the ½ cup of fruit or vegetable requirement, students must select at least two (2) additional full components in the full amounts (per age/grade grouping) required amount to count toward the reimbursable Offer Versus Serve meal.

The student's decision to accept all five (5) food components or to decline two (2) food components shall not affect the price charged for the meal. 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 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), four (4) or all five (5) components of the reimbursable meal.

## Participation and Training

Offer Versus Serve will be implemented in all district schools and all food service staff shall be trained in Offer Versus Serve annually.

## Breakfast Offer Versus Serve

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

A school breakfast eligible for federal reimbursement shall offer four (4) food items from the three (3) food components in the appropriate amounts per grade grouping:

- Fruit or vegetable or juice;
- Milk;
- Grains, including optional Meat/Meat Alternate

Students may decline one (1) of the four (4) items offered. Students may decline one (1) of the four (4) items offered, but must select at least ½ cup of fruit or ½ cup of vegetables or ½ cup of a fruit/vegetable combination.

After taking the required ½ cup fruit, students must select at least two (2) additional food items in the full amounts (per grade group requirements) to count toward the reimbursable offer versus serve meal.

School staff cannot require a student to take a particular food component (except the required ½ cup fruit). It is the student's choice to select three (3) or four (4) food items.

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Prepackaged meals such as bagged or “grab and go” meals are allowed under Offer Versus Serve. School staff is encouraged to offer some food components/food items with choices (e.g. fruit basket) and/or the option to decline an item, such as milk.

At each school, signs, will be posted to assist students in identifying a reimbursable meal on Offer Versus Serve.

The student’s decision to accept all four (4) food items or to decline one (1) 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.

## Participation and Training

Offer Versus Serve will be implemented in all district schools and all food service staff shall be trained in Offer Versus Serve annually.

## Legal References

- NJSA 18A:33-3 Cafeterias for pupils
- 18A:33-4 School lunch; availability to all children
- 18A:33-5 Exemptions
- 18A:33-10 Establishment of school breakfast program in certain schools
- 18A:33-11 Implementation of school breakfast program by district
- 18A:58-7.1 through -7.2 School lunch program
  
- NJAC 2:36-1.2 Policy and agreement for school nutrition programs
- 2:36-1.8 Review and evaluation