



Warwick School District



Guidelines for Use of Food in Schools

At Warwick School District, we are responsible to ensure the safety and security of all students and staff. We take that responsibility seriously and make every effort to ensure that safety. As part of those efforts, we need to be sure that all food served to students or staff is safe. We have well-developed policies and procedures in the food services areas in each of our schools and continuously evaluate those policies and procedures in order to maintain a high level of food safety.

In addition, at both the state and national levels of government, there is growing attention focused on health and nutrition within our schools. Healthy eating patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, full physical and mental growth, and lifelong health and well-being. The Warwick School District has recently increased our attention in this area as well. We are committed to helping students establish and maintain lifelong, healthy eating patterns.

Finally, food allergies are an area of growing concern in schools across America. Millions of children suffer allergic reactions due to food exposure, whether that exposure is through ingestion, touch or even in an airborne form. Those reactions can vary in severity from mild to life-threatening. This is a major health issue and must be taken very seriously. Again, the safety of all students in our school is a top priority for the Warwick School District.

For the reasons mentioned above, the district is recommending the following procedures related to food in our schools and classrooms. The following guidelines will outline these updated procedures. Any snacks eaten in school should be “healthy snacks.” Fruits, vegetables, and other snacks that are low in both calories and sugar content are considered to be “healthy snacks.” All snacks or food of any kind will be eaten in the cafeteria or other designated area assigned by the building principal (i.e., Cafeteria classroom). Food will no longer be served in classrooms, except in the areas of Family and Consumer Science. In addition, clubs and other extracurricular activity group meetings that meet in classrooms before school should no longer include snacks or other food. Outside food provided by parents or students as rewards, for parties or served as other treats is not permitted. Food is not permitted to be consumed in the building hallways or other common areas. Finally, teachers should use prudent judgment about storing and eating personal food items in their classroom. Recommended clean-up procedures should always be followed.

What about food rewards, special parties, and activities that align with the curriculum?

1. The use of outside food (i.e., pizza, fast food, candy, etc.) purchased and provided by teachers, other school staff, students or parents will NOT be permitted. All food rewards should be purchased through the district's Food Services Division to guarantee that the food meets the *Chapter 12 - Food and Nutritional* guidelines. A request to purchase food by school staff for any event, including those that align with the curriculum, should be made of the building principal. Attached is the Food Request form. In addition, all recommendations and directives related to student needs due to food allergies in the classroom and school must be followed.
2. As stated above, outside food provided by parents will not be permitted, including Birthday treats. **If parents choose to provide a treat, options may be purchased through the district's Food Services Division utilizing the Birthday Celebration order form which may be found on the Warwick School District website, or by contacting the Food Services Coordinator at your child's respective school. If an order is placed with the Food Services Division, the building principal will be notified.**
3. Parties, celebrations, and other events that do include food purchased from Food Service may not interfere with school breakfast or lunch and may begin no earlier than 30 minutes after the last meal period of the regular school day with the exception of events that include serving a meal in lieu of breakfast or lunch.
4. If the planned event includes a meal in lieu of breakfast or lunch, a healthy meal that meets the nutritional guidelines will be ordered by the Food Service Director. The Food Services Director will inform the building principal, and the building principal will make any necessary recommendations related to student needs due to food allergies in the classroom.
5. Teachers and other school staff should always consider the use of non-food rewards such as pencils or erasers for in-class reinforcement or special celebrations and parties.

Are there exceptions to these procedures?

Yes. Special events that take place after school hours and are not sponsored by the school district (i.e., Fun Nights, etc.) are exempt from these procedures, but should try to offer healthy options to the attendees. Also, students who have medical conditions that require the availability of food/snacks as directed by a doctor will be permitted. This should be coordinated with the building nurse.

All other exceptions to these Food Guidelines will be made by District Office administration in consultation with the building principal.



Warwick School District

Food Request Form

Teacher Name: _____

Grade Level/Area: _____

Date of Request: _____

Food Requested: _____

Date of Event: _____

Time/Period of Event: _____

Purpose for Food:

Student Food Allergies:

***Food must be served in the cafeteria or room designated by principal

Principal Signature: _____ Date: _____