

GENERAL SUPPORT SERVICES: Food Services

Overview: Food services provide an important support for students and families. Student performance in the classroom can be positively impacted by a well-run food service program.

	SCHOOL BOARD	SUPERINTENDENT	PRINCIPAL
GUIDING QUESTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Do we currently provide a breakfast and/or lunch program in our school(s)? ◆ Is the breakfast and/or lunch program self supporting or subsidized in the school budget? ◆ What data about the food service program do we have? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Finances ➤ Utilization ➤ Food quality, including nutrition ➤ Student/parent attitudes ➤ Free and Reduced Lunch participation rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Are schools in compliance with state and federal laws and guidelines? ◆ What procedures are in place to guide food service program assessments? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Does the school take part in the federal school lunch/breakfast program? ◆ Is the food service program a contracted service or part of the school system? ◆ Is there a group of people in place to ensure the quality of the food service program? ◆ What is the principal's role in the program? ◆ How well-run is the food service program? ◆ Are the menu choices nutritious and healthy? ◆ Is the program self-supporting?

GENERAL SUPPORT SERVICES: Food Services *(Continued)*

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TASKS TO CONSIDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and solicit community input regarding decision to provide or not provide breakfast and lunch programs in the school(s), including the financial and educational impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review state and federal laws to ensure compliance. Establish clear procedures to guide food service program assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with the person that coordinates the food service program and discuss the program, its limitations and structure. Observe the food service program and identify strengths and weaknesses of delivery. Eat the food on a regular basis. Talk to students to learn what they think of the food service program. Form a committee that includes users of the program (i.e. food service staff, students, parents, staff members, etc.) to evaluate the program.