Food Allowed in Centers

**POLICY/APPROACH:**

Head Start and Early Head Start allow only food purchased through Food Service procedures to be served to children due to associated health risks and according to Federal, State, and local regulations.

Policy Council Approval 2/18/2014
Board Approval 2/20/2014

**PROCEDURE:**

All food used for meals at HS/EHS must be purchased from licensed vendors through Food Service procurement procedures to minimize health risks and to allow for CACFP reimbursement.

Appropriate food handling storage and sanitation practices will be followed at all times.

**Special situations:**

a) Parents cooking special dishes: A parent may prepare a special dish only under the supervision of the center Cook and with approval from the Food Services Manager.

b) Foods acquired from or prepared during field trips to local farms or gardens may be used for nutrition activities and may be served to children.

c) Foods donated to the center: With approval from the Site Manager, or Food Service Manager, foods may be donated to a center and will be distributed to HS/EHS families. These foods must not be used for children’s meal preparation in the center.