## Meal Service for Students with Diabetes

### Will the food service department provide meals to students with diabetes?

The food service department will provide meals if a diet order is prescribed by a licensed medical authority.

### Who pays for meals?

All food and labor used to prepare the food for school lunches and breakfasts can be paid for from food service revenue.

If the school participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or the School Breakfast Program (SBP), lunch and/or breakfast will be available in the school. Free and reduced-price meals are available to students based on family size and income. Schools have applications available for families to fill out. Some schools will provide meals at no cost to students enrolled at elementary schools where 40% or more of enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals starting in 2023-24 according to HB 1238.

### Who pays for snacks?

If the student requires a meal or snack that is generally not provided (e.g., an afternoon snack), the food service department can provide this snack. If the student qualifies for special education, the snack and time to prepare it can be paid for from special education funds.

### Disaster or emergency situations.

Schools are generally prepared for inclement weather with food for one or two meals on hand. If a student needs specialized food, his or her parents should work with the healthcare provider and/or dietitian and the food service staff to plan for emergency situations. Parents should provide emergency supply of hypoglycemic snacks (such as juice or whole grain crackers).

### Meals that are withheld or delayed as a disciplinary measure.

Withholding meals as a disciplinary measure is not allowed in the NSLP or SBP. The school must use some other means to discipline its students.

### Meals that are withheld because of nonpayment.

We recommend that the school district or school develop a policy that addresses a way for students to receive meals when the family is unable to pay. The most common method is a petty cash fund.

### Using food service staff to prepare and portion meals.

Food service staff can prepare and serve meals to students with diabetes based on predetermined diet orders. They will portion food based on diet orders.

### Using food service staff to monitor students with diabetes at meal times.

Food service employees are hourly workers with very specific tasks. Their jobs are to prepare food, serve meals, and clean up the kitchen. The use of food service employees to monitor student mealtime is not an appropriate use of scheduled hours.