



**FAMILY STYLE  
MEALS  
AND  
CIVIL RIGHTS**

# FAMILY STYLE MEALS?

Family Style meals are used to support developmentally appropriate mealtime experiences for children.

All foods served meet the meal pattern set in place by the CACFP USDA program. All items are placed on the table where the children and adults sit together.

Children are encouraged to help themselves independently or with help from an adult.





# IMPORTANCE

- Exposes children to mealtime practices.
- Encourages social interaction with peers.
- Encourages healthy eating habits.
- Children more likely to try new foods.
- Teaches children to listen to their own hunger and fullness cues.

# BEFORE MEAL

- Children and adults wash hands.
- Adults guide children in table settings (some classrooms use this as a classroom job)
- Multiple sets of child-size serving spoons and tongs are there in case of contamination.
- All food is present on the table at the start of the meal.
- Cleanup supplies are kept nearby.



# DURING MEAL

- Adults assist children as they learn to serve themselves and pass the serving dishes.
- Children of various abilities sit together to enjoy the meal. Children learn from watching each other.
- Adults sit and eat with children.
- Adults and children engage in conversations that are interesting to children.
- Adults gently encourage, but never force children to try new foods.
- Adults respect the child's decision to decline food and honor a child's hunger and fullness cues.





- Children are guided in clearing the table
- Children are told what will be happening after they are finished eating
- Adults help and supervise children as they wash their hands



**AFTER MEAL**

# CIVIL RIGHTS

Title VI Civil Rights Acts of 1964  
prohibits discrimination based on:

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Sex
- Age
- Disability



# TEN AREAS OF COMPLIANCE



- Assurances
- Data Collections
- Equal Opportunity
- Public Notification
- Access
- Training
- Reporting Violations
- Compliance
- Conflict Resolution
- Customer Service





# ASSURANCES AND DATA COLLECTION

## **Assurances**

*Agree to comply with Acts, Amendments, Guidelines and directives regarding Civil Rights.*

*Will not exclude from participation in, be denied benefits of, or otherwise be subject to discrimination under any SNP program.*

## **Data Collection**

*Establish a system to collect racial and ethnic data*

*Data must be reported on an annual basis*

*Data collectors may not second guess, change or challenge a self-declaration of ethnicity/race made by a parent unless such declarations are blatantly false*



# EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

## ***Equal Opportunity***

- Provide all families the same information and services*
- Reflect diversity and inclusion on all program related information and photos.*



## ***Public Notification***

*To inform area the SFA participates in the School Meal Program*  
*To reach as many applicants and potentially eligible persons as possible*  
*To ensure program access*

# REPORTING VIOLATIONS

*All SFA must develop their own procedures for documenting civil rights complaints At a minimum, the following information is required by the SFA:*

- *Name, title, address and phone number of complainant*
- *Name, title, address and phone number of individuals involved including any witnesses*
- *Protective classes involved in the complaint*
- *Facts and time-period or date of the complaint*
- *Person taking the complaint*
- *Date complaint was originally reported*

*Participants have 180 days to files a complaint*



# TRAINING AND ACCESSIBILITY

## Training

Conduct annually for those who:

Interact with families and students

- Have oversight and or supervisory responsibilities



## Accessibility

What is SFA responsibility to children with disabilities?

- Provide accommodations for participants with disabilities
- Provide appropriate information in alternative formats
- Provide food substitutions for student when documented in writing by a medical authority

## Language Interpreters

- Children should not be used as interpreters
- Volunteers may be use but should understand ethics for interpreters

# CUSTOMER SERVICE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

## **Customer Service**

*Treat all Participants and Families  
Equally*

- *Offer all participants the same meal unless they require modified meals due to a disability*
- *Give same information to all families.*

## **Conflict Resolution**

- *Be open to hear grievances*
- *Try to resolve the complaint*
- *Contact ODE if issue is not resolved*



# IMPLEMENTATION

Ask yourself with all interactions:

- How would I want to be addressed?
- Am I treating this person in the same manner I treat others?
- Have I provided this person with information (s)he needs to make necessary decisions?





# CONTACT



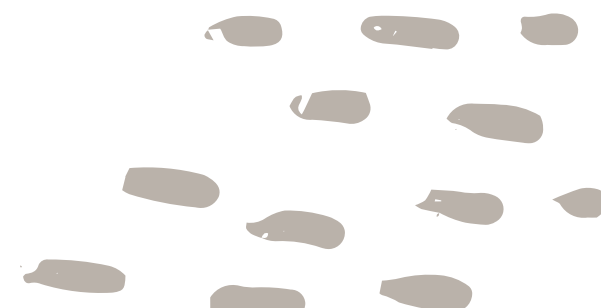
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1.MAIL:  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS  
400 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, SW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250-9410; OR  
2.FAX:  
(833) 256-1665 OR (202) 690-7442; OR  
3.EMAIL:  
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