



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Pre-K Meal Environments

WV Universal Pre-K S.o.S. Webinar

February 9, 2018

Overview and Goals

- Pre-K Meal Environments
- Mealtime Definitions
- Mealtime “Must”
- Supports for Meal Environments

Define Family Style Meals

Mealtime “Musts”

- WBVE Policy 2525:
 - Breakfast and lunch must be provided.
 - Meals in community programs may include lunch and snack, rather than breakfast and lunch if a classroom’s regular operation times occur when breakfast is not required.
 - Meals provided during the WV Pre-K hours must be in accordance with the nutrition guidelines set forth in the WVDE National School Lunch Program.
 - Collaborative pre-k classrooms have the option of following the meal pattern and serving size requirements for either the Child and Adult Care Food Program or National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program; however, all snacks must meet CACFP meal pattern and serving size requirements.

Mealtime “Musts”

- Head Start Program Performance Standards (45 CFR Chapter XIII):
 - §1302.31 (e) (2): Teaching and the learning environment:
A program must implement snack and meal times in ways that support development and learning. For bottle-fed infants, this approach must include holding infants during feeding to support socialization. *Snack and meal times must be structured and used as learning opportunities that support teaching staff-child interactions and foster communication and conversations that contribute to a child’s learning, development, and socialization. Programs are encouraged to meet this requirement with family style meals when developmentally appropriate. A program must also provide sufficient time for children to eat, not use food as reward or punishment, and not force children to finish their food.*

Mealtime “Musts”

- Child Care Center Licensing Regulations:
 - 16.5. Food Service. A center shall serve food according to the following:
 - 16.5.a. A center shall provide a child with age-appropriate and developmentally suitable eating utensils;
 - 16.5.b. Staff members shall encourage a child to eat the food served, but shall not coerce or force feed a child;
 - 16.5.c. Staff members shall eat or participate in meals and snacks with a child twenty-five (25) months of age and over and shall model healthy eating habits;
 - 16.5.d. The meals shall be served in a setting that encourages socialization, where the children and staff members are seated when eating, and staff members provide supervision and model positive eating behaviors and social interactions;
 - 16.5.e. Food shall not be served directly on the table or chair tray; and
 - 16.5.f. The center shall give children time to eat their food without rushing.

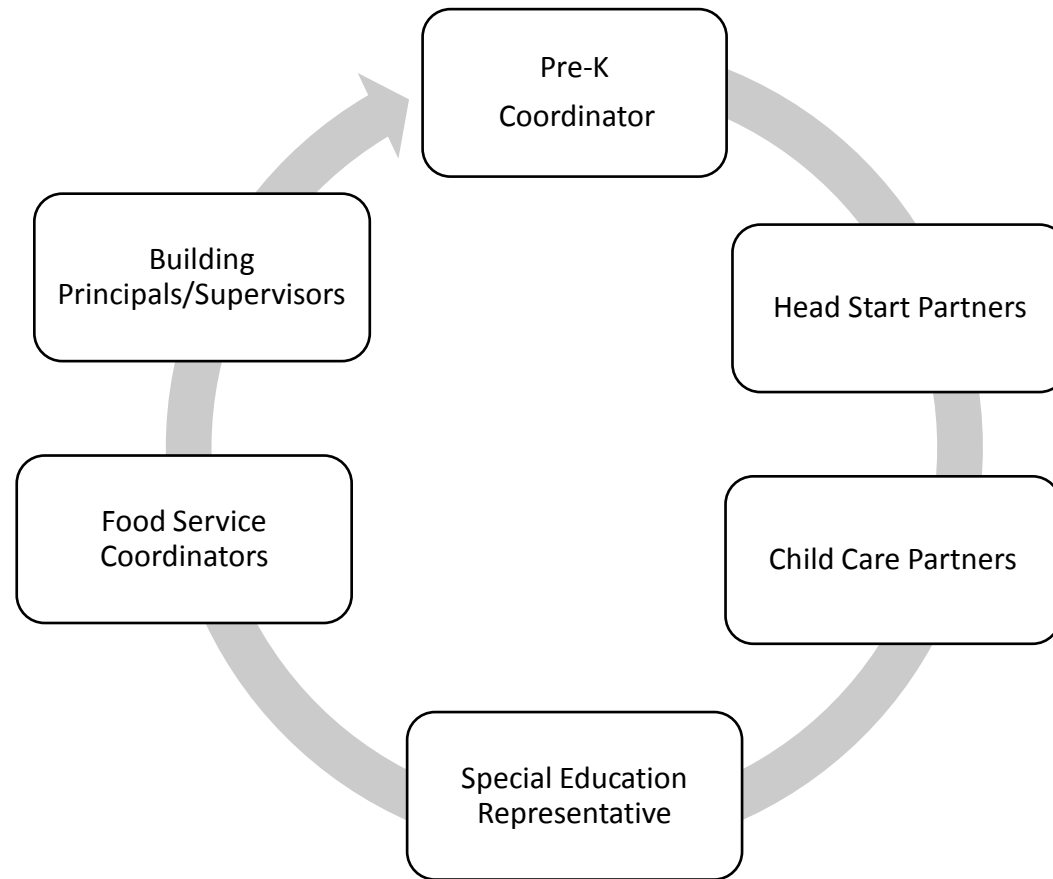
Mealtime “Musts”

- Mealtime Environments:
 - Adults encourage socialization and conversation.
 - Children and staff members are seated together when eating.
 - Classroom staff members provide supervision (**two adults per classroom**).
 - Adults support and help children develop positive eating habits (trying new foods, discuss various types of food).
 - Adults foster self-help skills

Mealtime “Musts”

- **Mealtimes are an instructional part of the pre-k day**
 - WV Early Learning Standards Framework (WV ELSF)
 - Fostering Skill Development
 - Developmentally Appropriate Practices During Meals
 - Appropriate furniture and tools
 - Health and Safety Considerations
 - Inclusive Practices
 - Special Dietary Needs (Policy 4320 Policy 4320: Child Nutrition Programs; Policy 4321.1: Standards for School Nutrition)

Pre-K Meal Experiences are another part of the collaborative effort



Meal environment information and support

- All collaborative team members (core and full teams)
- Pre-k staff
- Cooks
- Custodians
- Principals/Supervisors
- Other teachers in the school building
- Parents
- Volunteers
- Others who work with Universal Pre-K

Sharing mealtime environment expectations

- Professional development & linking curriculum and assessment
- Teacher Guides
- Parent Handbooks
- Pre-K policies and procedures



Clarification regarding CACFP Requirements and Pre-K Enrolled Children



1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Building 6 • Charleston, WV 25305
Steven L. Paine, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools
wvde.state.wv.us

MEMORANDUM

TO: Food Service Directors
County Collaborative Early Childhood Core Teams

FROM: Amanda Harrison, Executive Director, Office of Child Nutrition 
Monica DellaMea, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning 

DATE: November 15, 2017

RE: Clarification regarding the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Requirements and Pre-K Enrolled Children

Questions concerning CACFP Requirements and Pre-K Enrolled Children

Tracy Sayre

trcsayre@k12.wv.us

Janet Bock-Hager

jbockhager@k12.wv.us

Questions concerning mealtime environments

Janet Bock-Hager

jbockhager@k12.wv.us

Rhonda Fisher

rffisher@k12.wv.us

Tricia Haynes

patricia.l.haynes@k12.wv.us

Ginger Huffman

vhuffman@k12.wv.us