

2021-22 Letter of Agreement - Operational and Financial Administration Requirements

Please share with your In-School Breakfast or Snack Program Team Members

- * Principals are required to read the **2021-22 Letter of Agreement**
- * The information and requirements contained in the *2021-22 Letter of Agreement* have been determined and approved by the ONFE School Breakfast Program (ONFE SBP) and your school board.
- * Resources are available for ALL aspects of the *2021-22 Letter of Agreement*. Please contact the Community Development Coordinator assigned to your school for information and support.

The *2021-22 Letter of Agreement* has two parts. **Part 1:** Operational Requirements and **Part 2:** Financial Administration requirements.

ACTION REQUIRED: Principals: Print, complete and return the Signature Sheet at the end of the *2021-22 Letter of Agreement* after reading the document.

PART 1: OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Follow Nutrition Guidelines & Food Safety Protocols

Adhere to both the (1) Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services Student Nutrition Guidelines and, (2) the ONFE SBP - Ottawa Nutrition Guidelines Enhancements (ONGE). Collectively, these two documents are referred to as the **Nutrition Guidelines**.

- Read this document (attached): *COVID-19 Safety Protocols and Delivery Models***
- Read this hyperlinked document: [Student Nutrition Program - Nutrition Guidelines 2016](#).** Pay special attention to the following sections:
 - Guiding Principles; pp. 5-8
 - Food & Beverage Choice Tables; pp.9-19 (particularly to the “Do Not Serve” sections of each page)
 - General Guidelines; pp.24-33 (particularly to page 24 “Safe Food Handling, Storage & Preparation”)
- Read this hyperlinked document: [ONFE SBP - Ottawa Nutrition Guidelines Enhancements \(ONGE\)](#).**
- Food Donations:** Any food donated to your breakfast or snack program must meet all the Nutrition Guidelines and come directly from a HAACP certified facility. Donated food must be traceable (for food safety & recall purposes), be properly labelled with an ingredient list and nutritional information. Donations **cannot be sourced** from individuals preparing food at home, nor from the emergency food system/food banks.
- Food Safety:** All schools operating a breakfast and/or snack program are deemed to be a Food Premise and are subject to inspection, at any time, by Ottawa Public Health under the Health Protection and Promotion Act - Ontario Regulation 493: Food Premises. The overall goal of Ontario Regulation 493 is to make sure food is kept safe to prevent foodborne illness. The Regulation sets out the requirements that food premise owners and operators must follow, and covers safe food handling, cleaning, and sanitizing, operations, and maintenance.

- i. **Read the Appendix 1: *Ottawa Public Health Letter of Support RE: Ontario Regulation 493/17 Food Premises*** This letter from Ottawa Public Health (OPH) outlines effective food safety measures, as per Ontario Regulation 493/17, for Ottawa Network for Education School Breakfast Programs serving low-risk foods. (Low risk foods are defined in detail in this letter). If your school is serving any foods that are not included on the list, please contact your CDC as soon as possible.

2. Inform Parents/Guardians

Inform parents/guardians about the program. Note: The program is non-stigmatizing and does not single out or turn away students. All children at a participating school have the opportunity to participate. Parents/guardians should also be given the opportunity to contribute to the program through financial contributions.

3. Build an In-School Team to Operate the Program and Meet Regularly

- One person cannot reasonably complete all the tasks associated with running a breakfast or snack program. Building an In-School Team will ensure adequate staff support is available to provide smooth daily operations, and long-term program stability and sustainability.
- An In-School Team may be composed of EAs, teachers, custodians, OAs, Principals and Vice Principals.
- Designate a Program Coordinator to coordinate daily program operations and liaise with the ONFE SBP Community Development Coordinator.
- At the beginning of the school year, meet with your In-School Team to delegate responsibilities, review the annual nutrition budget, Nutrition Guidelines, Letter of Agreement, program requirements, and reporting processes.
- Meet regularly throughout the year to review the annual nutrition budget (rate of spending) as well as to discuss issues, challenges, and opportunities.
- It is strongly recommended that one member of your In-School Team review the online training materials that will be provided by ONFE SBP and Ottawa Public Health.

4. Adhere to Program Operation Dates and Frequency of Service Requirements

- Begin your school's Breakfast or Snack program as soon as possible after the start of the school year and end the program no earlier than 2 weeks before the last day of the school year.
- Operate 5 days/week throughout the school year.

5. Adhere to Your School's Annual Nutrition Budget and Financial Restrictions

- Financial administration is a critical component of your program. Please refer to the detailed information provided in **Part 2: Financial Administration Requirements**.

6. Track Monthly Program Information

- Number of meals served daily;
- Number of days program operated;
- Number of people and hours spent operating the program.

7. Adhere to Reporting Requirements

- Monthly program information and expenditure reports, including copies of all receipts/invoices are due no later than the 10th day of each month, for expenses incurred in the previous month.
 - Complete all other reports, as requested e.g., food voucher usage, etc.
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PART 2: FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Account Code/Line:

- Your school has a **nutrition account** that appears in your school budget for the cash component of your annual nutrition budget. If you cannot find it, please contact your finance department.

B. Funding Structure – Cash and Grocery Cards (as applicable)

- Most schools will receive nutrition funding in the form of cash. Some schools will also receive grocery cards.
- The cash component of your funding will be transferred via the school board. Please note that monthly expenses (non-grocery cards) reported to ONFE SBP must match your **nutrition account** balance.
- Grocery cards will be delivered before the end of November 2021.
- Grocery cards hold a monetary value. They must be stored in a locked area.
- Unspent grocery cards must be returned by the end of the school year.
- Your school is responsible for repayment of ANY lost grocery cards, or inappropriate purchases.

C. Funding - Payment Schedule:

- Your school's 2021-22 annual nutrition budget was communicated in a separate, recent e-mail and can be viewed at any time in your online ([Webtracker](#)) account.
- Cash component of your nutrition funding will be issued to you in three allocations:
 - 1st Allocation Funds - September 2021: 50% (approximately) of your annual nutrition budget. (You will receive more than 50% of your overall budget before November **if** your school also receives part of your funding in grocery cards.)
 - 2nd Allocation Funds – January 2022: 25% (approximately) of your annual nutrition budget.
 - 3rd Allocation Funds - April 2022: 25% (approximately) of your annual nutrition budget.

D. Funding Usage:

- Nutrition funds are to be used exclusively for the purchase of breakfast or snack foods that are in accordance with the Nutrition Guidelines. Daily supplies such as soap, food wrap, etc. may also be purchased.

E. Funding Restrictions:

Nutrition funds **cannot** be used to:

- Purchase kitchen equipment (small or large). Contact your ONFE SBP Community Development Coordinator regarding any equipment requests.
- Pay for any food order handling fees or delivery costs.
- Cover costs for school-wide special meals.
- Pay for the cafeteria to operate your program.
- Stock-up on items for the following year.
- Purchase grocery cards for the following year.

F. Annual Nutrition Budget Monitoring:

- Monitor your annual nutrition budget regularly; do not exceed it.
- Review the status of your budget and your rate of spending throughout the school year.
- Program expenses that exceed your annual nutrition budget are your school's responsibility.
- Only use the funding that you need. Unused funds are returned to ONFE SBP through your school board at the end of the school year.
- **If you have any budgetary questions or concerns at any time during the school year, contact your ONFE SBP Community Development Coordinator IMMEDIATELY.**

G. Reporting Requirements:

- Nutrition expenses must be tallied monthly and reported to the ONFE SBP using our **web-based reporting system** ([Webtracker](#)). Monthly reports are due by the 10th day of each month for expenses incurred in the previous month. Additional reporting instructions will be sent to you by the end of September.
- Copies of all receipts must be scanned and uploaded directly into Webtracker.
- Print a copy of each Monthly Expenditure Report for your records.
- All physical receipts and printouts of Monthly Expenditure Reports should be kept on file at your school location, be retained for 7 years on-site and be available for review/audit by ONFE and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

If you have any questions, please contact your **ONFE SBP Community Development Coordinator**.

We look forward to working with you to provide students with a healthy start to their school day.



Carolyn Hunter

Director, School Breakfast Program
Ottawa Network for Education

Appendix 1



Ottawa Public Health
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Ottawa, Ontario K2G 6J8
healthsante@ottawa.ca

September 1st, 2021

Ottawa Network for Education
Conseil des Écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario
Conseil des Écoles catholiques du Centre-Est
Ottawa Carleton District School Board
Ottawa Catholic School Board

RE: Ontario Regulation 493/17 Food Premises:

- A. Part IV, Section 20, "Mechanical Dishwashers"
- B. Part III, Section 7(3)(c) and 7(4), "Operation and Maintenance".

The purpose of the letter is for Ottawa Public Health (OPH) to confirm in writing, the practices that have been determined by OPH to be effective food safety measures for the Ottawa Network for Education's School Breakfast Program (ONFE SBP).

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) is a proud supporter and partner of the ONFE SBP. OPH believes that all children and youth benefit from the opportunity to participate in healthy meal and snack programs at school. As such, OPH is committed to working closely with the SBP and its four school board partners* to determine the most effective food safety practices and equipment for the program.

ONFE SBP program delivery sites (schools) are considered to be Food Premises and as such, sites are inspected and expected to comply with Ontario Regulation 493/17 [O.Reg.493/17]. OPH understands that Ottawa's four school boards are responsible for ensuring that the physical environments and equipment meet legislated requirements to operate as a Food Premise.

Amendments to the Food Premises Regulation [O.Reg.493/17] made under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* relating to this matter came into effect on January 1, 2020. These amendments respond to the needs of the community meal programs and food premises serving lower risk food, while balancing public health and safety.

The following amendments to the Food Premises Regulation apply to food premises that prepare only low-risk* foods and/or distribute pre-packaged ready to eat food items (*see description of Low-Risk Foods for School Breakfast and Snack Programs in the text box below):

Clause 7 (3) (c) Handwashing stations

Applicable food premises are no longer required to have the specified handwashing stations in a food premises. However, there is still a regulatory requirement for food premises operators to ensure that food handlers wash their hands as often as necessary to prevent the contamination of food or food areas.



S. 18 Dishwashing equipment

Applicable premises are no longer required to provide the structural number of a two- or three-compartment sink and/or a commercial mechanical dishwasher. However, any utensils used to prepare food must be cleaned and sanitized in accordance with current regulatory requirements (e.g., sections 19 – 23).

S. 32 Food handler training

Applicable premises are no longer required to ensure there is at least one food handler or supervisor on the premises who has completed food handler training. However, OPH encourages program coordinators and volunteers to be aware of safe food handling practices and OPH is working to support that awareness through the transition of our past training to an on-line/ on-demand resource.

***Low-Risk Foods**

The types of food items listed below, when prepared in Ottawa schools for the purposes of School Breakfast and Snack Programs, are considered by OPH to be **Low-Risk Foods** under the Amendments to the Food Premise Regulation O.Reg.493/17 described in this letter.

- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Frozen fruits and vegetables
- Canned fruits and vegetables (including also, for example: apple sauces etc.)
- Bread, baked goods, grain products (including also, cereals, crackers, muffins etc.)
- Legumes (including also, for example: hummus, soy spreads etc.)
- Dairy products (for example: milk, cream, cheese, yogurt, and products containing these items)
- Eggs – (HACCP audit conducted. Preparation steps are approved by OPH)
- Condiments (for example: jam, margarine, spreadable cheese etc.)

We look forward to our ongoing partnership with ONFE SBP and Ottawa's four school boards to support student nutrition programs in Ottawa schools.

If you have any questions, please contact Blayr Kelly, Supervisor, Public Health Inspections, Ottawa Public Health: Blayr.Kelly@ottawa.ca or 613.580.2424 ext. 19256.

Blayr Kelly

Blayr Kelly, B.A.Sc., CPHI(C)
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SIGNATURE PAGE

2021-22 Letter of Agreement - Operational and Financial Administration Requirements

**Please PRINT signature page of this document PRIOR to signing.
Return by Friday September 17th, 2021.**

After reviewing the *2021-22 Letter of Agreement* document in detail, please return it to your schools ONFE SBP Community Development Coordinator via e-mail.

By signing this page I, [please print principal name] _____, principal of [school name] _____ agree to adhere to both Part1: Operational Administration Requirements and Part 2: Financial Administration Requirements described within.

I have reviewed the information contained in this document with my school's: **Office Administrator**
Program Coordinator

PRINCIPAL SIGNATURE: _____ **Date:** _____

Please provide the additional program information requested below:

Office Administrator: _____

Program Coordinator Name: _____

Program Coordinator Email: _____

Individual Responsible for Submitting Monthly Reports: _____

Anticipated Program Start Date: _____