

# Gagetown School

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*"Soar with the Eagles"*

Jeff Taylor, Principal

Kara Mersereau, Administrative Assistant

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Dear Parents / Guardians:

The New Brunswick Department of Education and Early Childhood Development released revisions of Policy 711 (Healthier School Food Environment) in June 2018. EECD partnered with Public Health dietitians to enhance the existing policy to reflect the most recent evidence and best practices in school nutrition. These revisions affect which foods and beverages are sold, served or otherwise offered to students. The policy applies to all school districts and public schools in New Brunswick including offerings of food in classrooms, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, and school sponsored and endorsed activities and events. All foods and beverages sold through fundraising activities organized by, through or for schools/students will comply with the policy. It also applies to all cafeteria, hot lunch and vending machine options. The policy does not apply to foods and beverages that students bring from home.

The new categories will help make it easier for schools personnel, school districts and community stakeholders to navigate through the policy requirements and determine their roles and responsibilities. Schools should strive to serve foods and beverages that are whole, minimally processed, locally-sourced, seasonally available, and prepared in a healthy way. A lunch meal will include at least vegetables, fruit, whole grain products, milk or alternatives and meat or alternatives. À La Carte Items can be sold or offered to complement a student's bagged lunch or as a recess/break time snack. For example, if a school chooses to run a canteen, the snacks that are sold or offered will comply with the À La Carte Items listed in Appendix B. Foods and beverages sold in schools will be priced as close to cost as possible.

Principals in partnership with their school's Parent School Support Committee will set goals to monitor and support a healthier school food environment. Students and parents, through the Parent School Support Committee, will be given the opportunity to provide input into the school food environment, including foods and beverages options consistent with the policy.

Creating and supporting a healthier school food environment will take effort and time. It may mean new ways of collaborating and doing things. All members of the school community have a role to play. Supporting a healthier school food environment helps students attain their full potential by providing them with the skills, social support, education and environmental reinforcement they need to adapt lifelong healthy eating behaviours and attitudes.

To access the policy go to:

<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/ed/pdf/K12/policies-politiques/e/711A.pdf>

Kind regards,

*Jeff Taylor*

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