

REGULATION

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: JEA-RA
Responsible Office: Deputy Superintendent for Instruction

Open Lunch in Senior High Schools

I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures of petition and review regarding open lunch in senior high schools

II. PROCEDURES

A. The Student Government Association may petition the principal no more than once a year for formal consideration of the adoption of open lunch. The Student Government Association must provide, in the petition, evidence of three criteria:

1. School proximity to commercial food establishments
2. Sufficient amount of time in the lunch period for travel to and from commercial food establishments
3. Traffic movement that assures safe access to and from food establishments as well as being nondisruptive to the surrounding community

B. The principal reviews the evidence presented in support of the criteria. If the principal determines that the criteria are met, an Advisory Committee on Open Lunch is established. If the principal determines that the criteria are not met, he/she must present evidence in writing as to why the criteria are not met. The Student Government Association may appeal the decision of the principal to the deputy superintendent for instruction if the association believes that the principal has not shown sufficient cause for why the criteria were not met.

C. Establishment/Operation of the Advisory Committee on Open Lunch

1. The Advisory Committee will be composed of the following members:

- a) Four parents selected by the Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) or its equivalent
 - b) Four students selected by the Student Government Association
 - c) Four professional staff members selected by the principal and professional staff
 - d) One staff member selected by the principal to serve as chairperson who will be a nonvoting member
2. Each one of the three groups (parents, students, staff) establishes its own procedures for soliciting input on the establishment of open lunch from its constituents. The procedures developed must be approved by the principal.
 3. Each one of the three groups solicits input from its constituents on the establishment of open lunch. A subcommittee representing equally the three groups solicits input from the business community.
 4. The committee reviews the input (data). If nine of the twelve voting members vote to adopt open lunch, the committee recommends to the principal the adoption of open lunch.
 5. The principal reviews the data and accepts or rejects the written recommendation of the committee.
 - a) If the committee recommends the adoption of open lunch, and the principal concurs, open lunch is adopted. The committee is charged with developing a detailed plan for the implementation of open lunch.
 - b) If the committee recommends the adoption of open lunch, and the principal does not concur, he/she must provide a written explanation of why he/she does not concur. The committee may appeal the decision of the principal to the deputy superintendent for instruction if the members believe that the principal has shown insufficient cause for rejecting their recommendation.
 - c) If the committee does not recommend the adoption of open lunch, closed lunch remains in effect. The Student Government Association may not petition the principal for one year from date of denial for formal consideration of the adoption of open lunch.

D. Annual Review and Revocability of Open Lunch

1. The principal annually reviews with the committee the implementation of open lunch where it is in effect.
2. If at any time the principal believes that the continuance of the open lunch program is not in the best interest of the health, safety, and education of the students in the school, the principal may suspend temporarily the practice of open lunch. A suspension may last no longer than 20 school days.
3. If the principal believes that there is sufficient cause, he/she convenes the committee for the purposes of considering the revocation of open lunch. The committee must solicit input from its constituents (parents, students, staff) prior to making a recommendation on revocation to the principal.
4. After considering the recommendation of the committee, the principal decides whether or not open lunch is revoked. If the committee does not support the principal's decision, the decision may be appealed to the deputy superintendent for instruction.
5. If open lunch is revoked, the Student Government Association may not repetition for open lunch until the next school year.

Administrative History: Formerly Regulation 540-2, August 23, 1979; revised October 3, 1995.