

Guiding Principles

for effective and supportive nutrition programs.

Program management

- A **program coordinator** is in place leading the planning, delivery, and reporting of the program.
- The school community supports the coordinator and has access to learning opportunities including nutrition education.
- **Parents, caregivers, volunteers, and partners** are informed about the program and receive opportunities for financial or volunteer contributions.
- Suitable **space, equipment, and supplies** are available to meet program needs.

Finances

- **Budgeting**, including cost-effective menu planning and purchasing, is in place.
- Finances are monitored carefully with **bookkeeping and recording** systems.
- Programs keep copies of all receipts.
- **Fundraising** takes place to ensure a sustainable program.

Food and nutrition

- **Manitoba School Nutrition Guidelines** are used to create menus.
- A **variety** of foods are offered:
 - Breakfasts and lunches contain at least 3 food groups, 1 of which is a vegetable or fruit.
 - Snacks contain at least 2 food groups, 1 of which is a vegetable or fruit.
 - Vegetable and fruit snacks contain 1 food group (vegetables and fruit).
- To provide **regular nourishment**, meals and snacks are offered at least at least 2 times per week.
- Follow **food safety** practices. Ensure someone on site has their *Food Handler Certificate*.

Supportive and social environment

- Maintain **welcoming, comfortable spaces** for students. Give students enough time to eat their meals. Make food available outside the program hours as necessary. Programs accommodate needs.
- Students have opportunities to **build food and nutrition skills**.
- When growing, purchasing, and serving food, consider the **environment**. Recycle, reduce, or compost food packaging and waste. When possible, use reusable containers, bowls, plates, cups, and cutlery.

Measuring success

- Have a system in place to **monitor and evaluate** the program.
- **Share** success and steps for improvement with the school community, partners, and funders.