

## **Food in the Classroom**

<b>Depending on Assistance Needed, Call:</b>	
DGS – Environmental Health and Safety	(202) 576-8962
Office of Food Services	(202) 576-7400
LEA Contact	
Other	

### **Situation Description**

“No Food” in the classroom has been a long standing policy of DC Public Schools. DC “Healthy Schools Act of 2010” established the “Breakfast in The Classroom” (BIC) program resulting in school policy revision allowing food to be served in the classrooms. This is a proven program and has many benefits including proper nutrition and prepares students to be ready to learn. Menus are simple and planned to reduce messiness. Menus include items that are hand-held and easily eaten by students. Since the establishment of the BIC program some schools have begun serving lunch and snacks in the classroom. Food in the classroom creates many new concerns from increased pest activity to unpleasant odors if trash is not promptly removed. Food consumed in the classroom other than the “Breakfast in the Classroom” program must meet very strict guidelines and criteria as outlined below.

### **Procedures**

School administrators ensure that the food was transported and handled in a safe and sanitary manner from an approved source. Sanitary containers such as plastic containers with sealable tops must be used.

The Indoor Air Quality Coordinator as part of the “Healthy Schools Act 2010” and EPA Tools for Schools will monitor classrooms to insure limited pest problems by monitoring:

- Classroom cleanliness and any pest or rodent concerns.
- Insure that each classroom has its own readily available disinfectant spray bottle, paper towels and a broom/dustpan for spills.
- Encourage students to be responsible for keeping their own areas clean and to be careful when eating their meals.
- Trash removal and custodian response to spills.
- All food in the classroom must be stored in sealable plastic containers.