## EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL 240 Ege Street Jersey City, NJ 07304 EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL 250. 3015

## Breakfast Offer versus Serve Policy

Name of Local Education Agency (LEA):

Implementation Date:

Offer versus serve (OVS) is a policy for reimbursable meals that allows students to decline a certain number of food components in the meal in order to reduce plate waste and food cost.

A school breakfast eligible for federal reimbursement shall offer four (4) food *items* from the three (3) food *components* in the appropriate amounts per grade grouping:

- Fruit <u>or</u> vegetable <u>or</u> juice,
- > Milk,
- Grains (Including optional meat/meat alternate)

Students are allowed to decline one (1) of the four (4) *items* offered, but **must select** at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of either fruit (or fruit combination)  $\underline{or}$  a  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of vegetable (or vegetable combination)  $\underline{or}$   $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of a fruit /vegetable combination.

The student's decision to accept all four (4) food *items* or to decline one (1) food *item* shall not affect the price charged for the meal. The breakfast is priced as a unit. If children do not choose enough food items to comprise a reimbursable meal, a la carte prices will be charged.

School staff cannot make exceptions to the policy, such as requiring every child to take a particular food component. It is the student's choice to select any three or all four food items of the reimbursable meal. At each school implementing the Offer versus Serve Policy, school food service staff will be trained

## annually. **Select one:**

Offer versus Serve will be implemented at the following schools: (List all Schools that will implement OVS)

## <u>OR</u>

Offer versus Serve will be implemented in all schools

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the <u>USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form</u>, (AD-3027) <u>found online</u> at: <u>http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint filing cust.html</u>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.