Department: Education	Approval Date: 3/9/2020	Policy Number: 4050
Regulation Number: 1302.31(e)(2)	Regulation Topic: Education and Child Development	Policy Title: Family Style Meals

Policy:

MARC Head Start direct service providers will implement meal and snack times in ways that support development and learning. For bottle-fed infants, this approach must include holding infants during feeding to support socialization. Meal and snack times will be structured and used as learning opportunities that support teaching staff-child interactions and foster communication and conversations that contribute to a child's learning, development and socialization.

Direct service providers will meet this requirement with family-style meals when developmentally appropriate. Direct service providers will also provide sufficient time for children to eat, not use food as reward or punishment, or not force children to finish their food.

Adherence to the above regulations and this policy is subject to random monitoring by MARC Head Start staff.

Effective Date: July 1, 2020