

Operational Services

Free and Reduced-Price Food Services

Notice

The Superintendent shall be responsible for implementing the District's free and reduced-price food services policy.

Eligibility Criteria and Selection of Children

A student's eligibility for free and reduced-price food services shall be determined by the income eligibility guidelines, family-size income standards, set annually by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and distributed by the Illinois State Board of Education. From time to time, the income eligibility guidelines and standards may not be necessary when reimbursements for students' free meals are claimed through a free meal program for all students such as the U.S. Depts. of Agriculture and Education's Community Eligibility Option (CEO). When participating in a free meal program for all students, the District will follow its requirements.

Notification

At the beginning of each school year, by letter, the District shall notify students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) of: (1) eligibility requirements for free and reduced-price food service, (2) the application process, (3) the name and telephone number of a contact person for the program; and (4) other information required by federal law. The Superintendent shall provide the same information to: (1) informational media, the local unemployment office, and any major area employers contemplating layoffs; and (2) the District's website, all school newsletters, or students' registration materials. Parent(s)/guardian(s) enrolling a child in the District for the first time, any time during the school year, shall receive the eligibility information.

Non-Discrimination Assurance

The District shall avoid publicly identifying students receiving free or reduced-price meals and shall use methods for collecting meal payments which prevent identification of children receiving assistance.

Appeal From a Decision

A family may appeal the District's decision to deny an application for free and reduced-price food services or to terminate such services as outlined by the U.S. Department of

Agriculture in 7 C.F.R. §245.7, Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Meals and Free Milk In Schools. The Superintendent shall establish a hearing procedure for adverse eligibility decisions and provide by mail a copy of them to the family. The District may also use these procedures to challenge a child's continued eligibility for free or reduced-price meals or milk.

During an appeal, students previously receiving food services benefits shall not have their benefits terminated. Students who were denied benefits shall not receive benefits during the appeal.

The Superintendent shall keep on file for a period of 3 years a record of any appeals made and the hearing record. The District shall also maintain accurate and complete records showing the data and method used to determine the number of eligible students Served free and reduced-price food services. These records shall be maintained for 3 years.

LEGAL REF.: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, National School Lunch Program, 7 C.F.R. Part 210.
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Meals and Free Milk In Schools, 7 C.F.R. Part 245.
105 ILCS 125/and 126/.
23 Ill. Admin. Code 305.10 et seq.

CROSS REF.:

Adopted: March 11, 1997

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November 24, 2015