

SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT
Salem, Connecticut

BUSINESS AND NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

FOOD SERVICE: FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS

Parents shall be informed of the district policy concerning “Meals for Needy Children.” A letter and application form will be distributed to all parents during the first few weeks of school. The letter will contain information on the eligibility standards, procedures for applying for free “Meals for Needy Children,” and how an appeal may be filed for an adjustment in the decision with respect to the application. This information and an application form will also be provided whenever a new student is enrolled.

A public news release containing this same information will be made available to local news representatives early in the school year. Copies of this public release will be made available upon request to any interested party. Subsequent changes in the district eligibility standards during the school year, which are approved by the state agency, will also be publicly announced.

1. Free or reduced price meals will be provided for all students who qualify on the basis of financial need.
2. There shall be no discrimination in the furnishings of meals because of race, religion, source of income, etc.
3. The anonymity of students receiving assistance under this policy shall be protected. The names of these students will be treated in a confidential manner. They will use the same tickets for milk and lunch and will obtain these items in the same manner and place as do all other children.
4. Requests for free and reduced price meals which have been denied may be appealed to the Superintendent.
5. Records of students receiving assistance will be kept in each school. A monthly report will be maintained for audit purposes.
6. The price charged to students who do not qualify for free or reduced price meals will be established annually by the District in compliance with state and federal laws.
7. The price charged to students who qualify for reduced meals will be established annually by the District in compliance with state and federal laws.
8. Eligibility for the “Meals for Needy Children” program will be based on the following:
 - a. Emergency Situations
A child’s statement of need is sufficient for providing assistance on a temporary basis. A family contact should be made immediately to determine extent and probable duration of need. In cases of family emergency such as sudden unemployment, illness, death, desertion, etc., assistance will be provided as needed.

b. Objective Standards of Need

Eligibility for assistance, other than for emergency situations, will be determined on the basis of income and family size as indicated on the scale provided by the district.

9. If school authorities feel that a family's financial situation has changed, and the students are no longer eligible for free meals, a hearing procedure will be used by the Superintendent to challenge the continued eligibility. In the event of such a challenge, the family will be given a reasonable period of time in advance of the hearing to review the information on which the challenge is based. Children will continue to receive free meals until the conclusion of the hearing.
10. Students who do not qualify for free or reduced price meals are eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program and will be charged "paid" meal prices set by the District. "Paid" category students will be treated equally to students receiving free or reduced price benefits in every aspect of the District's National School Lunch Program.
11. The District has established a fair hearing process under which a household can appeal a decision with respect to the household's application for benefits or any subsequent reduction or termination of benefits.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes: 10-215 Lunches, breakfasts and other feeding programs for public school children and employees; 10-215b Duties of State Board of Education re feeding programs; 10-216 Payment of expenses; State Board of Education Regulations: 10-215b-1 School lunch and nutrition programs. Title VII, Civil Rights Act, 42 USC 2000e, et seq. as amended by Title IX, Equal Employment Opportunity Act; 42 USC Sec. 1758, 7 CFR Part 145, Sec 245.5, 245.6, 245.7, 210.9, 210.20; USDA Eligibility Guidance for School Meals Manual; USDA, FNS Instruction 765-7 Rev. 2: Handling Lost, Stolen and Misused Meal Tickets; Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, 42 USC 1751 §203, §205.

Procedures Adopted: September 8, 1998

Revised Procedures 1st Reading: March 3, 2014

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