Free and Reduced Price Meals

Adopted: 03/13/1969 **| Last Revised**: 04/02/2024 **| Last Reviewed**: 04/02/2024

The Board of Education recognizes that adequate nutrition is essential to the development, health and wellbeing, and learning of all students. The Superintendent or designee shall facilitate and encourage the participation of all students.

Each school day, the district shall provide, free of charge, a nutritionally adequate breakfast and lunch for any student who requests a meal.

To provide optimal nutrition and ensure that schools receive maximum federal meal reimbursement, the Superintendent or designee shall assess the eligibility of district schools to operate a federal universal meal service provision, such as Provision 2 or the Community Eligibility Provision, pursuant to 42 USC 1759a. The Superintendent or designee shall submit an application to operate a federal universal meal provision to the California Department of Education (CDE) on behalf of any district school that meets the definition of a “high poverty school.”

If any district school meets the criteria for a "very high poverty school" through its eligibility for the federal Community Eligibility Provision reimbursement rate pursuant to 42 USC 1759a, the district shall apply to the California Department of Education (CDE) to operate a universal meal service, unless the Board adopts a resolution stating that the district is unable to comply with this requirement due to fiscal hardship. The resolution shall be part of the public agenda for at least two consecutive Board meetings, first as an information item and then as an action item. The Board shall reconsider the resolution at least once every four years.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that meals served under the school nutrition program meet applicable state and/or federal nutritional standards in accordance with law, Board policy, and rule.

The Board shall approve and shall submit to the California Department of Education for approval, a plan that ensures that students eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals are not treated differently from other students and that meets other requirements specified in Education Code 49557.

All applications and records related to eligibility for the free or reduced-price meal program shall be confidential and may not be released except as provided by law and authorized by the Board or pursuant to a court order.

The Board authorizes designated employees to use individual records pertaining to student eligibility for any free and reduced-price meal program for the following purposes:

1. Disaggregation of academic achievement data;
2. Identification of students eligible for services under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act pursuant to 20 USC 6301-6576.
3. Facilitation of targeted educational services and supports to individual students based on the local control accountability plan

Confidentiality / Release of Records

If a student transfers from the district to another district, charter school, county office of education program, or private school, the Superintendent or designee may share the student's meal eligibility information to the other educational agency ensuring that the student continues to receive school meals.

The Superintendent or designee may release the name and eligibility status of a student participating in the free or reduced-price meal program to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for purposes of determining allocations under the local control funding formula and for assessing accountability of that funding.
The Superintendent or designee may release information on the school lunch program application to the local agency that determines eligibility for participation in the Medi-Cal program if the student has been approved for free meals or, if included in the agreement with the local agency, for reduced-price meals.

The Superintendent or designee also may release information on the school lunch application to the local agency that determines eligibility for CalFresh or another nutrition assistance program authorized under 7 CFR 210.1 if the student has been approved for free or reduced-price meals. Information may be released for these purposes only if the student's parent/guardian consents to the sharing of information and the district has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the local agency which, at a minimum, includes the roles and responsibilities of the district and local agency and the process for sharing the information. After sharing information with the local agency for purposes of determining eligibility for that program, no further information shall be shared unless otherwise authorized by law.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Legal References:

STATE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
5 CCR 15510 Mandatory meals for needy students
5 CCR 15530-15535 Nutrition education
5 CCR 15550-15565 School lunch and breakfast programs
EDUCATION CODE
48980 Notice at beginning of term
49430-49434 Pupil Nutrition, Health, and Achievement Act of 2001
49490-49494 School breakfast and lunch programs
49500-49505 School meals
49501.5 California Universal Meals Program
49510-49520 Nutrition
49530-49536 Child Nutrition Act of 1974
49547-49548.3 Comprehensive nutrition service
49550-49564.5 Meals for needy students
49564.3 High Poverty Schools: Universal Meals service
FEDERAL
UNITED STATES CODE
20 USC 1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974
20 USC 6301-6576 Title I Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
42 USC 1751-1769j School Lunch Program
42 USC 1771-1791 Child nutrition
42 USC 1773 School Breakfast Program
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS
7 CFR 210.1-210.33 National School Lunch Program

7 CFR 220.10-220.21 National School Breakfast Program
7 CFR 245.1-245.13 Eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Monitoring for Success: A Guide for Assessing and Strengthening Student Wellness Policies, 2012
Student Wellness: A Healthy Food and Physical Activity Policy Resource Guide, 2012

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Clarification on the Sharing of Individual Student Eligibility Information for Local Control and Accountability Plan Purposes, Management Bulletin SNP-02-2018, May 2018

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PUBLICATIONS

Eligibility Manual for School Meals: Determining and Verifying Eligibility, July 2017
Provision 2 Guidance: National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, Summer 2002

WEB SITES

CSBA: http://www.csba.org
CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
https://legalservices.csba.org/#https://legalservices.csba.org/
California Department of Education, Nutrition Services Division: http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu
California Project LEAN (Leaders Encouraging Activity and Nutrition): http://www.californiaprojectlean.org
Nourish California: https://nourishca.org/#http://www.cfpa.net
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service: http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd

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