

Policy 3553 Free and Reduced Price Meals

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 03/2001

Last Revised Date: 06/26/2024

The Governing Board recognizes that adequate nutrition is essential to the development, health and well-being, and learning of all students. The Superintendent or designee shall facilitate and encourage the participation of all students in the district's food service program. Each school day, the district shall provide, free of charge, a nutritionally adequate breakfast and lunch for any student who requests a meal. (Education Code 49501.5)

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." (Education Code 49564.3)

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 administrative regulation.

The Board shall approve, and shall submit to CDE 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.

Confidentiality/Release of Records

All applications and records related to eligibility for the free and reduced-price meal program shall be confidential and may not be disclosed except as provided by law and authorized by the Board or pursuant to a court order. (Education Code 49558)

The Board authorizes designated employees to use records pertaining to an individual student's eligibility for the free and reduced-price meal program for the following purposes: (Education Code 49558)

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.

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 to assist that other educational agency in 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 another school district, charter school, or county office of education that is serving a student living in the same household for purposes related to program eligibility and data used in local control funding formula (LCFF) calculations. (Education Code 49558)

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 LCFF and for assessing accountability of that funding. (Education Code 49558)

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. (Education Code 49557.2, 49557.3, 49558)

06/85
06/96
02/98
08/12/98
12/09/98
08/11/99
(2/99 3/03) 11/04
8/10/05
(3/03 11/04) 11/07
6/17/09
10/11
11/16/16
3/8/17
06/26/2024

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.

State

5 CCR 15510
5 CCR 15530-15535
5 CCR 15550-15565
Ed. Code 48980
Ed. Code 49430-49434
Ed. Code 49490-49494
Ed. Code 49500-49505
Ed. Code 49501.5
Ed. Code 49510-49520
Ed. Code 49530-49536
Ed. Code 49547-49548.3
Ed. Code 49550-49564.5
Ed. Code 49564.3

Federal

20 USC 1232g
20 USC 6301-6576

42 USC 1751-1769j
42 USC 1771-1791
42 USC 1773
7 CFR 210.1-210.33
7 CFR 220.10-220.21
7 CFR 245.1-245.13

Management Resources

California Department of Education
Publication

CSBA Publication

CSBA Publication

U.S. Department of Agriculture Publication

U.S. Dept of Agriculture Publication

Website

Website
Website
Website

Website

Website

Description

Mandatory meals for needy students
Nutrition education
School lunch and breakfast programs
Parent/Guardian notifications
Pupil Nutrition, Health, and Achievement Act of 2001
School breakfast and lunch programs
School meals
California Universal Meals Program
Nutrition
Child Nutrition Act
Comprehensive nutrition services
Meals for needy students
High-poverty schools; universal meal service

Description

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974
Title I Improving the Academic Achievement of the
Disadvantaged
School Lunch Program
Child nutrition
School Breakfast Program
National School Lunch Program
National School Breakfast Program
Eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk

Description

Clarification on the Sharing of Individual Student Eligibility
Information for Local Control and Accountability Plan
Purposes, Management Bulletin SNP-02-2018, May 2018
Monitoring for Success: A Guide for Assessing and
Strengthening Student Wellness Policies, rev. 2012
Student Wellness: A Healthy Food and Physical Activity
Policy Resource Guide, 2012
Provision 2 Guidance: National School Lunch and School
Breakfast Programs, Summer 2002
Eligibility Manual for School Meals: Determining and
Verifying Eligibility, July 2017
CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal
Services
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service
Nourish California
California Project LEAN (Leaders Encouraging Activity and
Nutrition)
California Department of Education, Nutrition Services
Division
CSBA

Cross References

Code

0200
0410

Description

Goals For The School District
Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities

0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
0470	COVID-19 Mitigation Plan
1340	Access To District Records
1340	Access To District Records
1400	Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools
3100	Budget
3100	Budget
3250	Transportation Fees
3250	Transportation Fees
3260	Fees And Charges
3260	Fees And Charges
3550	Food Service/Child Nutrition Program
3550	Food Service/Child Nutrition Program
3551	Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund
3551	Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund
3552	Summer Meal Program
3552	Summer Meal Program
3554	Other Food Sales
3554	Other Food Sales
3555	Nutrition Program Compliance
3555-E(1)	Nutrition Program Compliance
4119.23	Unauthorized Release Of Confidential/Privileged Information
4219.23	Unauthorized Release Of Confidential/Privileged Information
4319.23	Unauthorized Release Of Confidential/Privileged Information
5030	Student Wellness
5117	Interdistrict Attendance
5117	Interdistrict Attendance
5125	Student Records
5125	Student Records
5141.6	School Health Services
5141.6	School Health Services
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5145.6-E(1)	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5148	Child Care And Development
5148	Child Care And Development
5148.2	Before/After School Programs
5148.2	Before/After School Programs
6162.51	State Academic Achievement Tests
6162.51	State Academic Achievement Tests
6171	Title I Programs
6171	Title I Programs
6173	Education For Homeless Children
6173	Education For Homeless Children
6173-E(1)	Education For Homeless Children
6173-E(2)	Education For Homeless Children
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth

6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6175	Migrant Education Program
6175	Migrant Education Program
6176	Weekend/Saturday Classes
6177	Summer Learning Programs