

Policy 3550: Food Service/Child Nutrition Program

Status: ADOPTED

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The Governing Board of recognizes that adequate, nourishing food is essential to student health and well-being, development, and ability to learn. The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies to increase students' access to and participation in the district's food service programs and maintain fiscal integrity of the programs in accordance with law.

Each school day, a nutritionally adequate breakfast and lunch shall be made available at no cost to any student who requests a meal, including a student enrolled in an independent study program on any school day in which the student is scheduled for in-person educational activities of two or more hours. A nutritionally adequate breakfast or lunch is one that qualifies for reimbursement under the most current meal pattern for the federal School Breakfast Program or National School Lunch Program.

After a student has been provided a school meal at no cost, the district may sell the student the entrée from an additional nutritiously adequate meal that qualifies for federal reimbursement, from the same meal service. (Education Code 49431)

Foods and beverages available through the district's food service program shall:

1. Be carefully selected so as to contribute to students' nutritional well-being and the prevention of disease
2. Meet or exceed nutritional standards specified in law
3. Be prepared in ways that will appeal to students, retain nutritive quality, and foster lifelong healthful eating habits. The district's food service program shall give priority to serving unprocessed foods and fresh fruits and vegetables.
4. Be served in age-appropriate portions
5. Be available to students who meet federal eligibility criteria at no cost or at reduced prices, and to other students at reasonable prices

To encourage student participation in school meal programs, schools may offer multiple choices of food items within a meal service, provided all food items meet nutrition standards and all students are given an opportunity to select any food item.

The Superintendent or designee may invite students and parents/guardians to participate in the selection of foods of good nutritional quality for school menus.

The Board desires to provide students with adequate time and space to eat meals. (Education Code 49501.5) To the extent possible, school, recess, and transportation schedules shall be designed to encourage participation in school meal programs.

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically review the adequacy of school facilities for cafeteria eating and food preparation.

In accordance with law, the Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a food safety program in order to reduce the risk of foodborne hazards at each step of the food preparation process, from receiving to service.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the Board on student participation in the district's nutrition programs and the extent to which the district's food services program meets state and federal nutrition standards for foods and beverages.
