

Regulation 3551: Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 05/15/2018 | **Last Revised Date:** 05/21/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 05/21/2024

Payments for Meals

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a system for accurately recording payments received and tracking meals provided to each student.

At the beginning of the school year, the Superintendent or designee shall communicate the district's meal payment policies through multiple methods, including, but not limited to:

1. Explaining the meal charge policy within registration materials provided to parents/guardians at the start of the school year
2. Including the policy in print versions of student handbooks, if provided to parents/guardians annually
3. Providing the policy whenever parents/guardians are notified regarding the application process for free and reduced-price meals, such as in the distribution of eligibility forms at the start of the school year
4. Posting the policy on the district's website

Reimbursement Claims

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records of the number of meals served each day by school site and by category of free and reduced-price meals. The Superintendent or designee shall submit reimbursement claims for school meals to the California Department of Education (CDE) using the online Child Nutrition Information and Payment System.

Minimizing Food Waste and Reducing Food Insecurity

The District shall take steps to minimize food waste and reduce food insecurity in district schools. (Health and Safety Code 114079)

The Superintendent or designee shall arrange to recover the maximum amount of edible food that would otherwise be disposed for donation to a local food recovery organization. (14 CCR 18991.3)

The district may also provide sharing tables where students and staff may return appropriate unused cafeteria food items to be made available to students during the course of a regular school meal time. If food on the sharing tables is not taken by a student, the school cafeteria may donate the food to a food bank or any other nonprofit charitable organization. (Health and Safety Code 114079)

Food that may be donated includes prepackaged, nonpotentially hazardous food with the packaging still intact and in good condition, whole uncut produce that complies with Health and Safety Code 113992, unopened bags of sliced fruit, unopened containers of milk that are immediately stored in a cooling bin maintained at 41 degrees Fahrenheit or below, and perishable prepackaged food if it is placed in a proper temperature-controlled environment. The preparation, safety, and donation of food shall be consistent with Health and Safety Code 113980. (Health and Safety Code 114079)

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records related to edible food recovery including a list of each food recovery service or organization that collects or receives the district's edible food, contact information for the service or organization, the types of food, frequency, and quantity that will be collected or hauled by the district, and a copy of contracts or written agreements between the district and food recovery services or organizations. (14 CCR 18991.4)

Cafeteria Fund and Account

All proceeds from food sales and other services offered by the cafeteria shall be deposited in the cafeteria fund as provided by law. (Education Code 38090, 38093)

The cafeteria fund shall be used only for those expenditures authorized by the Governing Board as necessary for the operation of school cafeterias in accordance with Education Code 38100-38103, 2 CFR Part 200 Appendix VII, and the California School Accounting Manual.

The district may use cafeteria funds to supplement the provision of a nutritionally adequate breakfast and/or lunch to district students when permitted by law.

Any charges to, or transfers from, a food service program shall be dated and accompanied by a written explanation of the purpose of and basis for the expenditure. (Education Code 38101)

Indirect costs charged to the food service program shall be based on either the district's prior year indirect cost rate as approved by CDE or the statewide average approved indirect cost rate for the second prior fiscal year, whichever is less. (Education Code 38101)

Net cash resources in the nonprofit school food service shall not exceed six months' average expenditures. (7 CFR 210.14, 220.7)

U.S. Department of Agriculture Foods

The district shall provide facilities for the storage and control of foods received through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that protect against theft, spoilage, damage, or other loss. Such storage facilities shall maintain donated foods in sanitary conditions, at the proper temperature and humidity, and with adequate air circulation. The district shall comply with all federal, state, or local requirements related to food safety and health and procedures for responding to a food recall, as applicable, and shall obtain all required health inspections. (7 CFR 250.14)

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain inventories of USDA foods in accordance with 7

CFR 250.59 and CDE procedures, and shall ensure that foods are used before their expiration dates.

USDA donated foods shall be used in school lunches as far as practicable. USDA foods also may be used in other nonprofit food service activities, including, but not limited to, school breakfasts or other meals, a la carte foods sold to students, meals served to adults directly involved in the operation and administration of the food service and to other school staff, and training in nutrition, health, food service, or general home economics instruction for students, provided that any revenues from such activities accrue to the district's nonprofit food service account. (7 CFR 250.59)

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 Governing Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
12 CCR 18928-18998.4	Short-lived climate pollutants
5 CCR 15550-15565	School lunch and breakfast programs
Ed. Code 38080-38086	School meals
Ed. Code 38090-38095	Cafeterias; funds and accounts
Ed. Code 38100-38103	Cafeterias; allocation of charges
Ed. Code 42646	Alternate payroll procedure
Ed. Code 45103.5	Contracts for management consulting services; restrictions
Ed. Code 49010	Educational activity; definition
Ed. Code 49431	The Pupil Nutrition, Health, and Achievement Act of 2001
Ed. Code 49490-49494	School breakfast and lunch programs
Ed. Code 49501.5-49506	School Meals
Ed. Code 49550.3-49562	Meals for needy students
Ed. Code 49554	Contract for services
Ed. Code 49580-49581	Food recovery program
F&A Code 58595	Preference for California-grown agricultural products
F&A Code 58596.1-58596.5	Buy American Food Act; purchase of nondomestic agricultural food products
H&S Code 113700-114437	California Retail Food Code; sanitation and safety requirements
Pub. Cont. Code 2000-2002	Responsive bidders
Pub. Cont. Code 20111	Contracts over \$50,000; contracts for construction; award to lowest responsible bidder

Pub. Cont. Code 3410

[U.S. produce and processed foods](#)

Federal

Description

2 CFR 200

[Appendix VII Indirect cost proposals](#)

2 CFR 200.318-200.326

Procurement standards

2 CFR 200.400-200.475

Cost principles

2 CFR 200.56

Indirect costs; definition

42 USC 1751-1769j

[School Lunch Program](#)

42 USC 1771-1793

[Child Nutrition Act](#)

42 USC 1773

[School Breakfast Program](#)

7 CFR 210.1-210.33

[National School Lunch Program](#)

7 CFR 245.8

[Nondiscrimination practices for students eligible for free and reduced price meal and free milk](#)

7 CFR 250.1-250.70

USDA foods

Management Resources

Description

CA Dept of Social Services Publication

[Food Distribution Program Administrative Manual](#)

California Department of Education
Publication

[Professional Standards in the SNPs, NSD Management Bulletin, SNP-13-2020, rev. January 2022](#)

California Department of Education
Publication

[Food Service Management Company Contract Preapproval, NSD Management Bulletin, SNP-05-2023, March 2023](#)

California Department of Education
Publication

[Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies, Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments, and Excess Student Account Balances, NSD Management Bulletin, SNP-04-2023, July 2023](#)

California Department of Education
Publication

[Excess Net Cash Resources – Revised to Increase Limitation, NSD Management Bulletin, SNP-04-2022, May 2022](#)

California Department of Education
Publication

[Pricing of Adult Meals in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, NSD Management Bulletin, SNP-04-2021, August 2021](#)

California Department of Education
Publication

[Procuring and Monitoring of Food Service Management Contracts, NSD Management Bulletin, SNP-13-2015, January 2015](#)

California Department of Education
Publication

[Cafeteria Funds - Allowable Uses, NSD Management Bulletin, SNP-05-2020, February 2020](#)

California Department of Education
Publication

[Storage and Inventory Management of U.S. Department of Agriculture Foods, NSD Management Bulletin, FDP-01-2018, January 2018](#)

California Department of Education
Publication

[California School Accounting Manual](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Publication

[Buy American and the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, SP-32-2019, August 2019](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture Publication	Procuring Local Foods for Child Nutrition Programs, January 2022
U.S. Department of Agriculture Publication	Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies, SP 46-2016, July 2016
U.S. Department of Agriculture Publication	Indirect Costs: Guidance for State Agencies and School Food Authorities, SP 60-2016, September 2016
U.S. Department of Agriculture Publication	Compliance with and Enforcement of the Buy American Provision in the National School Lunch Program, SP-38-2017, June 2017
U.S. Department of Agriculture Publication	Discretionary Elimination of Reduced Price Charges in the School Meal Programs, SP 17-2014, January 2014
U.S. Dept of Agriculture Publication	School Meals - FAQs
Website	CalRecycle, Resources for Local Education Agencies: K-12 Public Schools and School Districts
Website	California Department of Education, Accounting
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service
Website	California Department of Social Services
Website	California Department of Education, School Nutrition
Website	California School Nutrition Association

Cross References

Code	Description
0410	Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities
1113	District And School Websites
1113	District And School Websites
1113-E PDF(1)	District And School Websites
1340	Access To District Records
1340	Access To District Records
3100	Budget
3100	Budget
3110	Transfer Of Funds
3110	Transfer Of Funds
3230	Federal Grant Funds
3230	Federal Grant Funds
3260	Fees And Charges

3260	Fees And Charges
3300	Expenditures And Purchases
3311	Bids
3311	Bids
3312	Contracts
3314.2	Revolving Funds
3400	Management Of District Assets/Accounts
3400	Management Of District Assets/Accounts
3460	Financial Reports And Accountability
3460	Financial Reports And Accountability
3510	Green School Operations
3511	Energy And Water Management
3511	Energy And Water Management
3512	Equipment
3512-E PDF(1)	Equipment
3515.6	Criminal Background Checks For Contractors
3550	Food Service/Child Nutrition Program
3550	Food Service/Child Nutrition Program
3553	Free And Reduced Price Meals
3553	Free And Reduced Price Meals
3554	Other Food Sales
3554	Other Food Sales
3555	Nutrition Program Compliance
3555-E PDF(1)	Nutrition Program Compliance
3580	District Records
3580	District Records
4112.4	Health Examinations
4112.4	Health Examinations
4212	Appointment And Conditions Of Employment
4212.4	Health Examinations
4212.4	Health Examinations
4231	Staff Development
4312.4	Health Examinations

4312.4	Health Examinations
4331	Staff Development
5030	Student Wellness
5030	Student Wellness
5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5145.6-E PDF(1)	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5145.6-E(1)	Parent/Guardian Notifications