FREE AND REDUCED PRICE FOOD SERVICES

The Board of Education recognizes that the nutrition of district students is an important factor in their educational progress. The District therefore shall participate in federally funded school meal programs. As required by state law, the district provides free meals to all students by adopting either the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), Provision 2 (P2), or a combination of these provisions, to maximize the federal reimbursement.

1. Eligibility Determination

Individual schools, or groupings of schools, are eligible for CEP if the "Identified Student Percentage" (ISP) is at least 25%. "Identified Students" are those who are eligible for free meals because they are directly certified under programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or the student lives in a household where a student is directly certified ("household extension"). Identified Students also include those who are "categorically" eligible, such as students who are homeless, migrant, foster, or runaway, or those participating in Head Start/Even Start programs.

2. Standards of Eligibility

The district will maximize the number of students who are eligible for free meals. At least three times a year (at the start of school, during December or January, and April), the district will conduct the Direct Certification Matching Process. The district will also designate children who are eligible for free meals through household extension or categorical eligibility.

3. Application Procedures

a. Application forms will be available in the main office of each school building.

b. Completed forms must be submitted to the building principal of the school which the student attends prior to any determination of eligibility.

c. The adult responsible for the child will be informed of the principal's determination within one week of receiving a properly completed application.

4. Provision for Anonymity

All reasonable efforts will be extended in protecting the anonymity of the student in accordance with federal regulations governing such programs.

5. Provision for Appeal

Upon written request, the Appeals Officers for free and reduced-price food will hear appeals of determinations regarding such services in compliance with federal regulations governing the National School Lunch Program

Ref: National School Lunch Act of 1946, as amended, (42 U.S.C. §§1751-1760)
Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended, (42 USC §§1771 et seq.)
Education Law §915-a
Social Services Law §95(7)

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