

Business and Noninstructional Operations

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS

The Governing Board recognizes that adequate nutrition is essential to the development, health, and learning of all students. The Superintendent or designee shall facilitate and encourage the participation of students from low-income families in the district's food service program.

(cf. 3551 - Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund)
(cf. 3552 - Summer Meal Program)
(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)
(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)
(cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)
(cf. 6177 - Summer School)

The district shall provide at least one nutritionally adequate meal each school day, free of charge or at a reduced price, for students whose families meet federal eligibility criteria. (Education Code 49550, 49552)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that meals provided through the free and reduced-price meals program meet applicable state and/or federal nutritional standards in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)

Schools participating in the Special Milk Program pursuant to 42 USC 1772 shall provide milk at no charge to students who meet federal eligibility criteria for free or reduced-price meals.

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 and milk are not treated differently from other students. (Education Code 49557)

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 3555 - Nutrition Program Compliance)
(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

Confidentiality/Release of Records

All applications and records related to eligibility for the free and reduced-price meals program shall be confidential except as provided by law. (Education Code 49558)

If a student transfers from the district to another district or to a private school, the Superintendent or designee may release the student's eligibility status or a copy of his/her free and reduced-price meal application to the other district or school to assist in the continuation of the student's meal benefits.

BP 3553

The Board authorizes designated employees to use individual records pertaining to student eligibility for the free and reduced-price meals program for the purposes of: (Education Code 49558)

1. Disaggregation of academic achievement data.
2. In any school identified as a Title I program improvement school pursuant to 20 USC 6316, identification of students eligible for school choice and supplemental educational services.

(cf. 0520.2 - Title I Program Improvement Schools)
(cf. 5125 - Student Records)
(cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)
(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

The Board further authorizes the release of information on the school lunch program application to the local agency that determines Medi-Cal program eligibility, provided that the student is approved for free meals and the parent/guardian consents to the sharing of information in accordance with Education Code 49557.2.

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

In addition, information on the school lunch program application may be released to the local agency that determines eligibility for participation in the CalFresh program or other nutrition assistance program, provided the student whose information is to be released is approved for free or reduced-price meals and his/her parent/guardian consents to the sharing of the information. Prior to releasing information to any such local agency, the Superintendent or designee and the local agency shall enter into a memorandum of understanding that, at a minimum, shall include the roles and responsibilities of the district and the local agency, the process for sharing the information, and a statement that the local agency may use the information only for purposes directly related to the enrollment of families in the CalFresh or other nutrition assistance program. (Education Code 49557.3, 49558)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 48980 Notice at beginning of term
- 49430-49436 Pupil Nutrition, Health, and Achievement Act of 2001
- 49490-49494 School breakfast and lunch programs
- 49500-49505 School meals
- 49510-49520 Nutrition
- 49530-49536 Child Nutrition Act of 1974
- 49547-49548.3 Comprehensive nutrition service
- 49550-49562 Meals for needy students

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

- 15510 Mandatory meals for needy students
- 15530-15535 Nutrition education
- 15550-15565 School lunch and breakfast programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1232g Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act
6301-6514 Title I programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
1751-1769j School lunch program
1771-1791 Child nutrition, especially:
1773 School breakfast program

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 7
210.1-210.31 National School Lunch Program
220.10-220.21 National School Breakfast Program
245.1-245.13 Determination of eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Monitoring for Success: Student Wellness Policy Implementation Monitoring Report and Guide, 2007
Student Wellness: A Healthy Food and Physical Activity Policy Resource Guide, rev. April 2006

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MANAGEMENT BULLETINS

USDA-SNP-07-2010 Change in Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application Approval Process, September 2010
NSD-SNP-12-2010 Clarification Regarding the Ability to Share Student Meal Program Eligibility Information Between School Food Authorities, April 2010
04-103 Implementation of Final Rule on Verification of Applications for Free and Reduced-Price Meals, August 2004
98-101 Confidentiality of Free and Reduced-Price Eligibility Information, February 1998

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Feed More Kids, Improve Program Participation
Direct Certification Implementation Checklist, May 2008

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PUBLICATIONS

Eligibility Manual for School Meals: Federal Policy for Determining and Verifying Eligibility, January 2008
Provision 2 Guidance: National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, Summer 2002

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
California Department of Education, Nutrition Services Division: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/l/nu>
California Healthy Kids Resource Center: <http://www.californiahealthykids.org>
California Project LEAN (Leaders Encouraging Activity and Nutrition): <http://www.californiaprojectlean.org>
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd>