

Board Policy

Free And Reduced Price Meals

BP 3553

Business and Noninstructional Operations

***Note: Education Code 49550 requires all districts to provide at least one nutritionally adequate meal during each school day to needy students, defined in Education Code 49552 as those who meet federal eligibility criteria for free and reduced-price meals. Pursuant to 42 USC 1758 and 1773, districts that participate in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Program may receive reimbursement for free and reduced-price meals at a higher rate than that provided for meals for noneligible students. In addition, state funding may be available through the State Meal Program (Education Code 49490-49494). The district may apply to the California Department of Education (CDE) for available state and federal funds. ***

***Note: The requirement to provide at least one nutritionally adequate meal to needy students applies during summer school sessions unless the district receives a waiver from the State Board of Education under the conditions described in Education Code 49548. Funding to support the provision of summer school meals is available through the Summer Food Service Program (Education Code 49547.5; 42 USC 1761); see BP/AR 3552 - Summer Meal Program. ***

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)

***Note: In order to be reimbursed for free and reduced-price meals, a school must meet federal and/or state nutritional guidelines in 7 CFR 210.10 and 220.8 as described in AR 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program. ***

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)

***Note: The federally funded Special Milk Program (42 USC 1772; 7 CFR 215.1, 215.7) assists in providing milk to students at reasonable prices in schools that do not participate in the National School Lunch or Breakfast Program. Participating districts may, at their discretion, choose to provide milk at no charge to students who qualify for free and reduced-price meals. The following optional paragraph is for use by districts that choose to provide free milk to eligible students. ***

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.

***Note: Education Code 49557 requires the district to develop a plan ensuring that students receiving free and reduced-price meals are not discriminated against in the implementation of the food services program. See the accompanying administrative regulation for plan requirements. ***

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)

***Note: The following paragraph is optional. According to CDE Management Bulletin NSD-SNP-12-2010, Education Code 49558 does not prohibit the sharing of free and reduced-price meal application information to other districts/schools for the purpose of determining students' eligibility. The district may provide either the student's application or only the student's name and eligibility status. The CDE urges districts to develop agreements with other districts regarding how the data will be shared, transported, protected, and destroyed once its purpose for determining meal eligibility has been completed. ***

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.

***Note: Districts wishing to use free and reduced-price meal records for these purposes are mandated to adopt a policy authorizing employee access. See the accompanying administrative regulation for additional requirements applicable to districts that authorize such access. ***

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)

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 49558, districts may release information on the National School Lunch Program application, under the conditions described below, to the local agency that determines eligibility under the Medi-Cal program. ***

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)

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/ls/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>

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GRAVENSTEIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Sebastopol, California

