

Business and Noninstructional Operations

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS

The Governing Board recognizes that adequate nutrition is essential to child development and learning and that some families may be unable to provide breakfast and lunch for their children. In accordance with law, the District shall provide free and reduced price meals for students whose families meet Federal eligibility criteria.

Free or reduced price meals shall be provided for needy students when family income is insufficient to provide the basic necessities, including food of the proper quality and amount as provided under the School Meals Initiative (SMI) guidelines. Eligibility shall be based on federal regulations as provided by the State Department of Education.

Parents/guardians shall be informed of the District policy concerning free or reduced price meals. A letter and application form shall be distributed to all parents/guardians during the first few weeks of school. The letter shall contain information on eligibility standards, application procedures, and appeal procedures. This information and an application form shall be provided whenever a new student is enrolled.

No individual indicators of participation in any free or reduced price meal program are maintained in the permanent record of any pupil if not otherwise allowed by law. No public release of information regarding individual pupil participation in any free or reduced price meal program is permitted.

Applications for free or reduced price meal programs shall be available to students at all times during the regular school day. (Education Code Section 49557)

Such applications shall contain the following statements:

1. Applications for free and reduced price meals may be submitted at any time during a school day.
2. Children participating in the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Program will not be overtly identified by the use of special tokens, special tickets, special serving lines, separate entrances, separate dining areas, or by any other means.

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FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS (continued)

All applications and records related to eligibility for the free or reduced price meal program shall be confidential. The Board authorizes the Superintendent/designee to use individual records pertaining to student eligibility for any free and reduced price meal program for the purpose of disaggregation of academic achievement data when used in connection with local/state assessments, Title I, or the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Only information pertaining to a student's *eligibility* for this program may be shared. Information regarding a student's *participation* in the program (e.g., the record of meals served to that student) is confidential.

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

1. Disaggregation of academic achievement data
2. Identification of students eligible for services under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act pursuant to 20 USC 6301-6576.

(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 as provided by Education Code 4557.2.

A public news release containing information and eligibility standards for free or reduced price meals shall be made available to local news media early in the school year. Copies of this public release shall be made available upon request to any interested party. Subsequent changes in the District eligibility standards during the school year, which are approved by the State agency, shall also be announced publicly.

The Governing Board shall formulate a plan which ensures that children eligible for free or reduced price meals and milk shall not be treated differently from other children. The plan shall be submitted to the State Department of Education for its approval.

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FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS (continued)

The plan shall ensure that:

1. The names of the children shall not be published, posted, or announced in any manner, or used for any other purpose other than the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Program.
2. There shall be no overt identification of any of the children by the use of special tokens or tickets or by any other means.
3. The children shall not be required to work for their meals or milk.
4. The children shall not be required to use a separate dining area, go through a separate entrance, or consume their meals or milk at a different time.
5. When more than one lunch, breakfast, or type of milk is offered, the children shall have the same choice of meals or milk that is available to those children who pay the full price.

Legal References:

EDUCATION CODE

48980	Notice at beginning of term
49430-49436	Pupil Nutrition, Health, and Achievement Act of 2001
49490-49493	School breakfast and lunch programs
49547-49548.3	Comprehensive nutrition service
49550-49560	Meals for needy students
49557	Application for free and reduced meals
49558	Application and record confidentiality

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

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

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 7

210.1-210.31	National School Lunch Program
220.1-220.21	National School Breakfast Program

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g	Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act
6301-6514	Title I programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1751-1769	National lunch programs
1771-1791	Child nutrition

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FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS (continued)

PUBLIC LAW 107-110
1001-1908 Title 1 programs

Management Resources:

CDE LEGAL ADVISORIES
0325.98 Education Code Section 49558 LO; 1-98
WEB SITES
CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

Policy

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Revised: 12/07/99

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CHULA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Chula Vista, California