

Policy 3551: Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 11/27/2012 | **Last Revised Date:** 01/09/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 01/09/2024

The **Governing** Board of Education intends that school food services shall be a self-supporting, nonprofit program. To ensure program quality and cost effectiveness, the Superintendent or designee shall centralize and direct the purchasing of foods and supplies, the planning of menus, and the auditing of all food service accounts for the district.

At the Board's discretion, district funds other than the cafeteria fund may be used for the purchase of school meals.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that food service director(s) possess the qualifications required by 7 CFR 210.30 and California Department of Education (CDE) standards.

At least once each year, food service administrators, other appropriate personnel who conduct or oversee administrative procedures, and other food service personnel shall receive training provided by CDE. (42 USC 1776)

Meal Sales

Any student who requests a meal shall be served ~~Each school day~~, a nutritionally adequate breakfast and lunch ~~freeshall be made available at no cost to any student who requests a meal, including a student enrolled in an independent study program on any school day in which the student is scheduled for in-person educational activities of charge, each school day two or more hours. After such school meals have been made available to a student, the district may sell the student the entrée from an additional nutritiously adequate meal that qualifies for federal reimbursement, from the same meal service.~~ (Education Code ~~49431~~, 49501.5)

As permitted by law, ~~additional or second meals, adult meals, and other nonprogram foods, such as smart snack compliant food and beverages sold in vending machines, may be sold to students.~~ (Education Code 38082, ~~49431~~, 49501.5)

Meals may be sold to district employees, Board members, and employees or members of the fund or association maintaining the cafeteria. (Education Code 38082)

In addition, meals may be sold to nonstudents, including parents/guardians, volunteers, students' siblings, or other individuals, who are authorized by the Superintendent or designee to be on campus. Any meals served to nonstudents shall not be subsidized by federal or state reimbursements, food service revenues, or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) foods.

Meal prices, as recommended by the Superintendent or designee and approved by the Board, shall be based on the costs of providing food services and consistent with Education Code 38084 and 42 USC 1760.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish strategies and procedures for the collection of meal payments. Such procedures shall conform with 2 CFR 200.426 and any applicable CDE guidance. The Superintendent or designee shall clearly communicate these procedures to students and parents/guardians, and shall make this policy and the accompanying administrative regulation available to the public pursuant to Education Code 49557.5.

Cafeteria Fund and Account

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a cafeteria fund independent of the district's general fund.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that state and federal funds provided through school meal programs are allocated only for purposes related to the operation or improvement of food services and for reasonable and necessary indirect program costs as allowed by law.

(Food service employees paid from cafeteria fund)

The wages, salaries, and benefits of food service employees shall be paid from the cafeteria fund. (Education Code 38103)

Contracts with Outside Services

With Board approval, the district may enter into a contract for food service consulting services or management services in one or more district schools. (Education Code 45103.5; 42 USC 1758; 7 CFR 210.16)

Procurement of Foods, Equipment, and Supplies

To the maximum extent practicable, foods purchased for use in school meals by the district or by any entity purchasing food on its behalf shall be domestic commodities or products. Domestic commodity or product means an agricultural commodity that is produced in the United States and a food product that is processed in the United States substantially using agricultural commodities that are produced in the United States. (~~42 USC 1760; 7 CFR 210.21~~)(**42 USC 1760; 7 CFR 210.21**)

The district's food service program shall give priority to serving freshly prepared onsite meals, using whole or minimally processed sustainable foods which are locally grown or produced, including fresh fruits and vegetables, and to providing plant-based or restricted diet food options for students.

When soliciting for bids and contracts for the purchase of an agricultural food product, the district shall specify in the solicitation that only the purchase of agricultural food products grown, packed, or processed domestically is authorized, unless a specific exception applies. A nondomestic food product may be purchased for use in the district's food service program only as a last resort when the product is not produced or manufactured in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities of a satisfactory quality, the quality of the domestic product is inferior to the quality of the nondomestic product, or the bid or price of the nondomestic product is more than 25 percent lower than the bid or price of the domestic product. In such cases, the Superintendent or designee shall retain documentation justifying the use of the exception for three years from the date of purchase. (Food and Agriculture Code 58596.3)

Furthermore, the district shall accept a bid or price for an agricultural food product grown in California before accepting a bid or price for a domestic agricultural food product that is grown outside the state, if the quality of the California-grown product is comparable and the bid or price does not exceed the lowest bid or price for domestic product produced outside the state. (Food and Agriculture Code 58595)

Bid solicitations and awards for purchases of equipment, materials, or supplies in support of the district's child nutrition program, or for contracts awarded pursuant to Public Contract Code 2000, shall be consistent with the federal procurement standards in 2 CFR 200.318-200.326. Awards shall be let to the most responsive and responsible party. Price shall be the primary consideration, but not the only determining factor, in making such an award. (Public Contract Code 20111)

Program Monitoring and Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee shall present to the Board, at least annually, financial reports regarding revenues and expenditures related to the food service program.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide all necessary documentation required for the Administrative Review conducted by CDE to ensure compliance of the district's food service program with federal requirements.

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

State References

12 CCR 18928-18998.4

5 CCR 15550-15565

Ed. Code 38080-38086

Ed. Code 38090-38095

Ed. Code 38100-38103

Ed. Code 42646

Ed. Code 45103.5

Ed. Code 49010

Ed. Code 49431

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[Short-lived climate pollutants](#)

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[Educational activity; definition](#)

[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 References

	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 References

	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

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