

Policy 3550: Food Service/Child Nutrition Program

Status: DRAFT

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The Governing Board recognizes that adequate, nourishing food is essential to student health and well-being, development, and ability to learn. The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies to increase students' access to and participation in the district's food service programs and maintain fiscal integrity of the programs in accordance with law.

Foods and beverages available through the district's food service program shall: **Each school day, a nutritionally adequate breakfast and lunch shall 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 two or more hours. A nutritionally adequate breakfast or lunch is one that qualifies for reimbursement under the most current meal pattern for the federal School Breakfast Program or National School Lunch Program.**

After a student has been provided a school meal at no cost, 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)

Foods and beverages available through the district's food service program shall:

1. Be carefully selected so as to contribute to students' nutritional well-being and the prevention of disease
2. Meet or exceed nutrition standards specified in law
3. Be prepared in ways that will appeal to students, retain nutritive quality, and foster lifelong healthful eating habits
4. Be served in age-appropriate portions
5. Be provided at no cost to students who request a meal

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall communicate information related to the district's food service programs to the public through available means, including, but not limited to, the district's web site website, social media, flyers, and school publications.

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

District schools are encouraged to establish school gardens and/or farm-to-school projects to increase the availability of safe, fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables for school meals, **positively impact students' knowledge related to food and nutrition, support the district's nutrition education program, and increase students' consumption of these foods and participation in school meals.**

To the extent possible, the school meal program shall be coordinated with the nutrition education program, instructional program for teachers, parents/guardians and food service employees, available community resources, and other related district programs.

To encourage student participation in school meal programs, schools may offer multiple choices of food items within a meal service, provided all food items meet nutrition standards and all students are given an opportunity to select any food item.

The Superintendent or designee may invite students and parents/guardians to participate in the selection of foods of good nutritional quality for school menus.

Students shall be allowed adequate time and space to eat meals. **(Education Code 49501.5)**

To the extent possible, school, recess, and transportation schedules shall be designed to promote participation in

school meal programs.

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically review the adequacy of school cafeterias and facilities for food preparation and consumption.

In accordance with law, the Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a food safety program in order to reduce the risk of foodborne hazards at each step of the food preparation and service process.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the Board on student participation in the district's nutrition programs and the extent to which the district's food service program meets state and federal nutrition standards for foods and beverages. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall provide all necessary and available documentation required for the Administrative Review conducted by the California Department of Education (CDE) to ensure the food service program's compliance with federal requirements related to nutrition standards, meal patterns, provision of drinking water, school meal environment, food safety, and other areas as required by the CDE.

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

	Description
5 CCR 15510	Mandatory meals for needy students
5 CCR 15530-15535	Nutrition education
5 CCR 15550-15565	School lunch and breakfast programs
5 CCR 15575-15578	Requirements for foods and beverages outside the federal meals program
Ed. Code 35182.5	Contracts for advertising
Ed. Code 38080-38103	Cafeteria; establishment and use
Ed. Code 45103.5	Contracts for management consulting services; restrictions
Ed. Code 48432.3	Voluntary enrollment in continuation education
Ed. Code 49430-49434	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 49510-49520	Nutrition
Ed. Code 49530-49536	Child Nutrition Act
Ed. Code 49540-49546	Child care food program
Ed. Code 49547-49548.3	Comprehensive nutrition services
Ed. Code 49550.3-49562	Meals for needy students
Ed. Code 49570	National School Lunch Act
Ed. Code 51795-51798	School instructional gardens
H&S Code 113700-114437	California Retail Food Code; sanitation and safety requirements

Federal References

	Description
42 USC 1751-1769j	School Lunch Program
42 USC 1758b	Local wellness policy
42 USC 1761	Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Feeding Option
42 USC 1769a	Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
42 USC 1771-1793	Child Nutrition Act
42 USC 1772	Special Milk Program

42 USC 1773	School Breakfast Program
7 CFR 210.1-210.33	National School Lunch Program
7 CFR 215.1-215.18	Special Milk Program
7 CFR 220.2-220.22	National School Breakfast Program
7 CFR 245.1-245.13	Eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk

Management Resources References

	Description
California Department of Education Publication	Healthy Children Ready to Learn, 2006
California Department of Education Publication	Professional Standards in the School Nutrition Programs, Management Bulletin SNP-13-2020, Updated January 2022
California Department of Food and Agriculture Pub	Planting the Seed: Farm to School Roadmap for Success, February 2022
California Project Lean Publication	Policy in Action: A Guide to Implementing Your Local School Wellness Policy, October 2006
CSBA Publication	Monitoring for Success: A Guide for Assessing and Strengthening Student Wellness Policies, 2012
CSBA Publication	Monitoring for Success: Student Wellness Policy Implementation Monitoring Report and Guide, 2008
CSBA Publication	Nutrition Standards for Schools: Implications for Student Wellness, Policy Brief, October 2007
CSBA Publication	Building Healthy Communities: A School Leader's Guide to Collaboration and Community Engagement, 2009
CSBA Publication	Student Wellness: A Healthy Food and Physical Activity Policy Resource Guide, April 2006
U.S. Department of Agriculture Publication	School Breakfast Toolkit
U.S. Department of Agriculture Publication	Civil Rights Compliance and Enforcement - Nutrition Programs and Activities, FNS Instruction 113-1, November 2005
U.S. Department of Agriculture Publication	Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020
U.S. Department of Agriculture Publication	Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs, May 2022
U.S. Department of Agriculture Publication	Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program: Handbook for Schools, December 2010
U.S. Department of Agriculture Publication	Guidance for School Food Authorities: Developing a School Food Safety Program Based on the Process Approach to HACCP Principles, June 2005
Website	California Department of Food and Agriculture, Office of Farm to Fork
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service
Website	California Farm Bureau Federation
Website	Nourish California
Website	California Project LEAN (Leaders Encouraging Activity and Nutrition)
Website	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Website	California School Nutrition Association
Website	California Department of Education, School Nutrition
Website	National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity
Website	California Department of Public Health
Website	California Healthy Kids Resource Center
Website	CSBA

Cross References**Description**

0500	Accountability
1312.4	Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.4-E(1)	Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.4-E(2)	Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures
1325	Advertising And Promotion
1340	Access To District Records
1340	Access To District Records
3000	Concepts And Roles
3260	Fees And Charges
3260	Fees And Charges
3510	Green School Operations
3514	Environmental Safety
3514	Environmental Safety
3517	Facilities Inspection
3517-E(1)	Facilities Inspection
3551	Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund
3551	Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund
3552	Summer Meal Program
3552	Summer Meal Program
3553	Free And Reduced Price Meals
3553	Free And Reduced Price Meals
3554	Other Food Sales
3554	Other Food Sales
3555	Nutrition Program Compliance
3555-E(1)	Nutrition Program Compliance
3580	District Records
3580	District Records
4131	Staff Development
4141.6	Concerted Action/Work Stoppage
4141.6	Concerted Action/Work Stoppage
5030	Student Wellness
5141.27	Food Allergies/Special Dietary Needs
5141.27	Food Allergies/Special Dietary Needs
5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5145.6-E(1)	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5148	Child Care And Development
5148	Child Care And Development
5148.3	Preschool/Early Childhood Education
5148.3	Preschool/Early Childhood Education
6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education

6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education
6173	Education For Homeless Children
6173	Education For Homeless Children
6176	Weekend/Saturday Classes
7110	Facilities Master Plan