

Policy 3553: Free And Reduced Price Meals

Status: DRAFT

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

Each school day, the district shall provide ~~make available~~, free of charge, ~~one~~ nutritionally adequate breakfast and ~~one nutritionally adequate~~ lunch for any student who requests a meal. (Education Code 49501.5)

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)

To provide optimal nutrition and ensure that schools receive maximum federal meal reimbursement, the Superintendent or designee shall assess the eligibility of district schools to operate a federal universal meal service provision, such as Provision 2 or the Community Eligibility Provision, pursuant to 42 USC 1759a. The Superintendent or designee shall submit an application to operate a federal universal meal provision to the California Department of Education (CDE) on behalf of any district school that meets the definition of a "high poverty school." (Education Code 49564.3)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that meals served under the school nutrition program meet applicable state and/or federal nutritional standards, as specified in accordance with law, ~~Board policy~~, and administrative regulation. ~~district-adopted guidelines~~.

The Board shall approve, and shall submit to CDE for approval, a plan that ensures that students eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals are not treated differently from other students and that meets other requirements specified in Education Code 49557.

Confidentiality/Release of Records

All applications and records related to eligibility for the free and reduced-price meal program shall be confidential and may not be disclosed except as provided by law and authorized by the Board or pursuant to a court order. (Education Code 49558)

The Board authorizes designated employees to use records pertaining to an individual student's eligibility for the free and reduced-price meal program for the following purposes: (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
3. Facilitation of targeted educational services and supports to individual students based on the local control accountability plan

If a student transfers from the district to another district, charter school, county office of education program, or private school, the Superintendent or designee may share the student's meal eligibility information to the other educational agency to assist that other educational agency in ensuring that the student continues to receive school meals.

The Superintendent or designee may release the name and eligibility status of a student participating in the free or reduced-price meal program to another school district, charter school, or county office of education that is serving a student living in the same household for purposes related to program eligibility and data used in local control funding formula (LCFF) calculations. (Education Code 49558)

The Superintendent or designee may release the name and eligibility status of a student participating in the free or reduced-price meal program to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for purposes of determining allocations under the LCFF and for assessing accountability of that funding. (Education Code 49558)

The Superintendent or designee may release information on the school lunch program application to the local agency

that determines eligibility for participation in the Medi-Cal program if the student has been approved for free meals or, if included in the agreement with the local agency, for reduced-price meals. The Superintendent or designee also may release information on the school lunch application to the local agency that determines eligibility for CalFresh or another nutrition assistance program authorized under 7 CFR 210.1 if the student has been approved for free or reduced-price meals. Information may be released for these purposes only if the student's parent/guardian consents to the sharing of information and the district has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the local agency which, at a minimum, includes the roles and responsibilities of the district and local agency and the process for sharing the information. After sharing information with the local agency for purposes of determining eligibility for that program, no further information shall be shared unless otherwise authorized by law. (Education Code 49557.2, 49557.3, 49558)

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
Ed. Code 48980	Parent/Guardian notifications
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 49547-49548.3	Comprehensive nutrition services
Ed. Code 49550.3-49562	Meals for needy students
Ed. Code 49564.3	High-poverty schools; universal meal service

Federal References

	Description
20 USC 1232g	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974
20 USC 6301-6576	Title I Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
42 USC 1751-1769j	School Lunch Program
42 USC 1771-1791	Child nutrition
42 USC 1773	School Breakfast Program
7 CFR 210.1-210.33	National School Lunch Program
7 CFR 220.10-220.21	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	Updated Guidance on Sharing of School Meal Applications and the Passing of Assembly Bill 1599, Management Bulletin SNP-12-2015, July 2015
California Department of Education Publication	Clarification on the Sharing of Individual Student Eligibility Information for Local Control and Accountability Plan Purposes, Management Bulletin SNP-02-2018, May 2018
CSBA Publication	Monitoring for Success: A Guide for Assessing and Strengthening Student Wellness Policies, 2012
CSBA Publication	Student Wellness: A Healthy Food and Physical Activity Policy Resource Guide, April 2006

U.S. Department of Agriculture Publication	Provision 2 Guidance: National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, Summer 2002
U.S. Dept of Agriculture Publication	Eligibility Manual for School Meals: Determining and Verifying Eligibility, July 2017
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service
Website	Nourish California
Website	California Project LEAN (Leaders Encouraging Activity and Nutrition)
Website	California Department of Education, School Nutrition
Website	CSBA

Cross References

	Description
0200	Goals For The School District
0410	Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
1340	Access To District Records
1340	Access To District Records
1400	Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools
3100	Budget
3100	Budget
3250	Transportation Fees
3250	Transportation Fees
3260	Fees And Charges
3260	Fees And Charges
3550	Food Service/Child Nutrition Program
3550	Food Service/Child Nutrition Program
3551	Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund
3551	Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund
3552	Summer Meal Program
3552	Summer Meal Program
3554	Other Food Sales
3554	Other Food Sales
3555	Nutrition Program Compliance
3555-E(1)	Nutrition Program Compliance
4119.23	Unauthorized Release Of Confidential/Privileged Information
4219.23	Unauthorized Release Of Confidential/Privileged Information
4319.23	Unauthorized Release Of Confidential/Privileged Information
5030	Student Wellness
5117	Interdistrict Attendance
5117	Interdistrict Attendance
5125	Student Records
5125	Student Records

5141.6	School Health Services
5141.6	School Health Services
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5145.6-E(1)	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5148	Child Care And Development
5148	Child Care And Development
6162.51	State Academic Achievement Tests
6162.51	State Academic Achievement Tests
6171	Title I Programs
6171	Title I Programs
6173	Education For Homeless Children
6173	Education For Homeless Children
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6175	Migrant Education Program
6175	Migrant Education Program
6176	Weekend/Saturday Classes
6177	Summer Learning Programs