

**FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS**

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 Learning Programs)*

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)

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)*

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.

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 and may not be released except as provided by law and authorized by the Board or pursuant to a court order. (Education Code 49558)

*(cf. 5125 - Student Records)*

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

*(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)*

**FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS**

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. 6171 - Title I Programs)*

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 in the continuation of the student's meal benefits.

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 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 local control funding formula 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. He/she 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)

*(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)*

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

48980 Notice at beginning of term

49430-49434 Pupil Nutrition, Health, and Achievement Act of 2001

**FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS**

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*  
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE  
14005.41 *Basic health care*

*Management Resources:*

CSBA PUBLICATIONS  
*Monitoring for Success: A Guide for Assessing and Strengthening Student Wellness Policies, 2012*  
*Student Wellness: A Healthy Food and Physical Activity Policy Resource Guide, 2012*  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MANAGEMENT BULLETINS  
*NSD SNP-12-2015 Updated Guidance on Sharing of School Meal Applications and the Passing of Assembly Bill 1599, July 2015*  
*USDA-SNP-07-2010 Change in Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application Approval Process, September 2010*  
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: Determining and Verifying Eligibility, July 2015*  
*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>