

## 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.

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.

All applications and records related to eligibility for the free or reduced price meal program shall be confidential. The Board authorizes the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, Principals, Associate Principals, and their designees 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.

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**FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS** (continued)

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.

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.

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**FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS** (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48980 Notice at beginning of term  
49490-49493 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  
49550-49560 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

1751-1769 National lunch programs  
1771-1791 Child nutrition

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

Adopted: 11/13/90  
Revised: 01/19/99  
Revised: 12/07/99

CHULA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Chula Vista, California