

Business and Noninstructional Operations

Free and Reduced Price Meals

1. The Board of Education 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 all students in the District's food service program.
2. The District shall provide each school day, free of charge, a nutritionally adequate breakfast and lunch for any student who requests a meal. (Education Code 49501.5)
3. To provide optimal nutrition, and ensure that schools receive maximum federal meal reimbursements, 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.
4. If any District school meets the criteria for a "high poverty school" through its eligibility for the federal Community Eligibility Provision reimbursement rate pursuant to 42 USC 1759a, the District shall apply to the California Department of Education (CDE) to operate a universal meal service. (Education Code 49564.3)
5. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that meals meet applicable state and/or federal nutritional standards in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.
6. 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 are not treated differently from other students and that other requirements specified in Education Code 49557.

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)

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.
2. Identification of students eligible for services under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act pursuant to 20 USC 6301-6576.

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If a student transfers from the District to another district, charter school, county office of education program or to a private school, the Superintendent or designee may share the student's meal eligibility information with 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.

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)

Legal Reference: Education Code, Sections 48980; 49430-49434; 49490-49494; 49500-49505; 49510-49520; 49530-49536; 49547-49548.3; 49550-49562  
Code of Federal Regulations, Title 7, Sections 210.1-210.31; 220.10-220.21; 245.1- 245.13  
Code of Regulations, Title 5, Sections 15510; 15530-15535; 15550-15565  
United States Code, Title 20, Sections 1232g; 6301-6514  
United States Code, Title 42, Sections 1751-1769j; 1771-1791  
Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 14005.41

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