

Business and Non-Instructional Operations

FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS

3542.31(a)

The Board of Education authorizes participation in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). The Superintendent is empowered to act on behalf of the Board in all matters related to the administration and implementation of these federal nutrition programs.

Free and reduced-price meals shall be provided to students whose family income meets the eligibility criteria established by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Families must submit an application for benefits to the designated school official, as described in the application materials. Information on how to apply for free or reduced-price meals will be included in student registration packets and made available throughout the school year.

A written statement of need will be sufficient to provide temporary assistance, pending a more thorough determination. In such cases, a prompt family contact will be made to assess the extent and likely duration of the need. In situations involving sudden family hardship—such as unemployment, illness, death, or other emergencies—the district will provide assistance as needed.

The District shall establish an appeals process to allow a parent or guardian to challenge the denial, reduction, or termination of benefits. Appeals must be filed within the timeframe specified in district regulations and will be reviewed by the Superintendent's designee.

No student shall be separated, identified, or treated differently based on their meal payment status. The names of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals shall not be published, posted, or announced, and no special tokens, tickets, or other identifying mechanisms shall be used.

Participation in the NSLP and SBP shall be conducted without discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, disability, or any other status protected by law.

All meals served under the NSLP and SBP shall meet or exceed the nutritional standards established in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, along with any applicable state and federal regulations. The District shall monitor compliance with meal component requirements, calorie limits, and portion sizes to ensure adherence to program guidelines.

Business and Non-Instructional Operations

FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS

3542.31(b)

Related Policies

- 3542 – School Nutrition and Meal Service Policy
- 3542.22 – Food Service Code of Conduct
- 3542.33 – Food Sales Other than National School Lunch Program
- 3542.41 – Professional Standards for Food Service Personnel
- 3542.42 – Food Service Finances
- 3542.43 – Food Service Charging

- Legal References:
- Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-215 to 10-216 – School feeding programs
 - 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq. – National School Lunch & Breakfast Programs
 - 7 C.F.R. Part 15b – Nondiscrimination in programs receiving federal assistance
 - 7 C.F.R. Parts 210 & 220 – NSLP and SBP regulations
 - P.L. 111-296 – Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

Adopted 8/27/2004

Revised and Adopted 6/10/2025