

## **Free and Reduced-Price Food Services**

The district shall take part as feasible in the National School Lunch and other food programs which may become available to ensure that all students in the district receive proper nourishment.

The administration shall establish regulations regarding participation in programs for free and reduced-price meals and supplementary food in accordance with applicable state and federal law.

Free and reduced price meals shall be provided to eligible students. In determining eligibility, the following criteria shall apply:

- The school district shall determine which individual children are eligible for a free or reduced price meal in accordance with applicable law.
- The school district shall notify the parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year or as otherwise required by law of the availability of free and reduced cost lunch and the eligibility criteria.
- The school district shall provide forms (Exhibit A) to parents/guardians on which application for consideration of eligibility of their children for free and reduced cost lunches can be made.
- The school district shall provide a free or reduced cost lunch to children upon approval of the application.
- If the application is denied, the parents/guardians may appeal this decision and a hearing will be conducted under the Hearing Procedure prescribed in Section 9 of the National School Lunch Act, as amended. During the pendency of the hearing the child shall continue to receive free or reduced cost meals.
- The school district shall provide free or reduced meals to all eligible students in accordance with the National School Lunch Act.
  - Homeless and Migrant students receive free lunch all year without filling out a free or reduced form. The student's status is confirmed by the District's Homeless/Migrant Liaison.
- Children receiving free or reduced price meals shall not be discriminated against or treated differently and their anonymity shall be protected in accordance with the requirements of law.

Adopted by the superintendent: December 9, 2015

Revised and recoded by the superintendent: June 21, 2017

Revised and recoded by the superintendent: July 17, 2019

LEGAL REFS.: 42 U.S.C. 1751 *et seq.* (*National School Lunch Act*)

7 C.F.R. 245.5 *(must inform families of the availability of reimburseable school meals and provide information about applying for free or reduced-price meals)*

C.R.S. 22-32-120 *(food services)*

C.R.S. 22-82.7-101 *et seq.* *(Start Smart Nutrition Program provides funding to eliminate amount students who qualify for reduced price meals pay in school breakfast program)*

C.R.S. 22-82.9-101 *et seq.* *(Child Nutrition School Lunch Protection Program provides funding to eliminate amount students in preschool through fifth grade pay for school lunch program, if they qualify for reduced price meals)*

CROSS REFS.:

*Board policy:*

EL-9, Treatment of Students, Parents and Community

*Administrative policy:*

EF, School Nutrition Program