

FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS

The district's plan for students receiving free or reduced-price meals shall ensure the following: (Education Code 49557)

1. The names of the students shall not be published, posted, or announced in any manner, or used for any other purpose other than the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, unless otherwise provided by law.
2. There shall be no overt identification of any of the students by the use of special tokens or tickets or by any other means.
3. The students shall not be required to work for their meals or for milk.
4. The students 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.

When more than one lunch, breakfast or type of milk is offered, the students shall have the same choice of meals or milk as is available to those students who pay the full price. (Education Code 49557; 7 CFR 245.8)

(cf. 0410 – Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 5145.3 – Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

Applications

An application form for free or reduced-price meals shall be distributed to all parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year, together with information about eligibility standards, application procedures and appeal procedures. This form and information shall also be provided whenever a new student is enrolled. (Education Code 49520, 48980; CFR 245.5)

(cf. 5145.6 -Parental Notifications)

Applications for free or reduced-price meal programs shall be available to students at all times during the regular school day and shall contain the following statements: (Education Code 49557; 7 CFR 245.5)

1. Applications for free or reduced price meals may be submitted at any time during a school day.
2. Students participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs 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.

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The application packet also shall contain:

1. A notification that, if a student qualifies for free or reduced price meals, then he/she may qualify for free or reduced-cost health insurance coverage. This notification will include:
 - a) information regarding the Medi-Cal program, including available services, program requirements, rights and responsibilities, and privacy and confidentiality requirements;
 - b) a request for the applicant's consent for the student, if eligible for free school lunches, to participate in the Medi-Cal program and to have the information on the school lunch application utilized by the local agency that determines eligibility under the Medi-Cal program;
 - c) a statement informing the parent/guardian that the lunch application will not be forwarded to the agency that determines Medi-Cal eligibility without parent/guardian consent, and the information contained on the application, is confidential and will not be shared with any governmental agency for any purpose other than health program enrollment, verification of applicant provided information and the administration of the Medi-Cal program.

Confidentiality/Release of Records

The Governing Board designates the following district employees to use individual records pertaining to student participation in the free or reduced price meal program solely for the purpose of disaggregation of academic achievement data or for the identification of students in any program improvement school eligible for school choice and supplemental educational services pursuant to 20 USC 6316:

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Director of Family and School Support, Educational Services Staff, Site Administration and teachers, and Information Technology Staff.

In using these records for that purpose, the following conditions shall be satisfied (Education Code 49558):

1. No individual indicators of participation in the free or reduced price meal program shall be maintained in the permanent records of any students if not otherwise allowed by law. (cf. 5125 – Student Records)
2. Information regarding individual student participation in the free or reduced price meal program shall not be publicly released.

(cf.4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential / Privileged Information)

FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS (CONTINUED)

3. All other confidentiality provisions required by law shall be met.
4. Information collected regarding individual students certified to participate in the free or reduced price meal program shall be destroyed when no longer needed for its intended purpose.