

***Riverside County Office of Education  
Board Policy 3553 Free and Reduced Price Meals***

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**BUSINESS AND NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS**

**SUBJECT: Free and Reduced Price Meals**

The County Board of Education (County Board) and County Superintendent of Schools or designee (County Superintendent) recognize 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. The County Superintendent shall facilitate and encourage the participation of all students in the County Office of Education's (County Office) food service program.

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

Each school day, the County Office shall provide, free of charge, a nutritionally adequate breakfast and lunch for any student who requests a meal regardless of their eligibility for free or reduced-price meals. (Education Code 49501)

The County Superintendent shall ensure that meals provided through the free and reduced-price meal program meet applicable state and/or federal nutritional standards in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)  
(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)

The County Office shall submit to the California Department of Education for approval, a plan that ensures that students eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals and milk are not treated differently from other students. (Education Code 49557)

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

**Confidentiality/Release of Records**

All applications and records related to eligibility for the free and reduced-price meal program shall be confidential except as provided by law. (Education Code 49558)

The County Office authorizes designated employees to use individual records pertaining to student eligibility for any free and reduced-price meal 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
3. Facilitation of targeted educational services and supports to individual students based on

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the local control accountability plan

If a student transfers from the district to another district, charter school, county office of education program, or private school, the County Superintendent may share the student's meal eligibility information with the other educational agency to assist that other educational agency in ensuring that the student continues to receive school meals.

The County Superintendent 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 (LCFF) calculations. (Education Code 49558)

The County Superintendent 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 LCFF and for assessing accountability of that funding. (Education Code 49558)

(cf. 0520.2 -Title I Program Improvement Schools)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)

(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

The County Superintendent 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. The County Superintendent 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)

(cf. 5141.6 - Student Health and Social Services)

**Legal Reference:**

**EDUCATION CODE**

48980 Notice at beginning of term

49430-49436 Pupil Nutrition, Health, and Achievement Act of 2001

49490-49494 School breakfast and lunch programs

49500-49505 School meals

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49501.5-California Universal Meals Program

49510-49520 Nutrition

49530-49536 Child Nutrition Act of 1974

49547-49548.3 Comprehensive nutrition service

49550-49564.5 Meals for needy students

49564.3 High-poverty schools; universal meal service

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

1751-1769h School lunch program

1771-1791 Child nutrition, especially:

1773 School breakfast program

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 7

210.1-210.31 National School Lunch Program

220.10-220.21 National School Breakfast Program

245.1-245.13 Determination of eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Nutrition Standards for Schools: Implications for Student Wellness, Policy Brief, October 2007

Monitoring for Success: Student Wellness Policy Implementation Monitoring Report and Guide, 2007

Student Wellness: A Healthy Food and Physical Activity Policy Resource Guide, rev. April 2006

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MANAGEMENT BULLETINS

06-103 Conditions for Summer School Meal Waivers and Saturday School Meal Criteria, January 2006

04-103 Implementation of Final Rule on Verification of Applications for Free and Reduced-Price Meals, August 2004

98-101 Confidentiality of Free and Reduced-Price Eligibility Information, February 1998

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Feed More Kids, Improve Program Participation

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PUBLICATIONS

Provision 2 Guidance: National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, Summer 2002

Eligibility Guidance for School Meals Manual, August 2001

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, Nutrition Services Division: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu>

California Healthy Kids Resource Center: <http://www.californiahealthykids.org>

California Project LEAN (Leaders Encouraging Activity and Nutrition):

<http://www.californiaprojectlean.org>

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd>