

Lewis Center for Educational Research

BP 3553: FREE AND REDUCED MEALS PROGRAM

Adopted: September 12, 2011

Revised:

National School Meals Program regulations require that a meal be provided for needy students when family income is insufficient to provide the basic necessities, including food of the proper quality and amount for good nutrition.

Eligibility for free or reduced price meals shall be based on federal regulations as provided by the State Department of Education.

Parents/guardians shall be informed of the organization policy concerning free or reduced price meals. Information and application form shall be provided to all parents/guardians during the first few weeks of school. The information shall include eligibility standards, application procedures and appeal procedures. This information and an application form shall be provided whenever a new student is enrolled.

In accordance with law, the Board authorizes designated employees to use individual records pertaining to student eligibility for any free and reduced price meal program for the purpose of: (Education Code [49558](#))

1. Disaggregation of academic achievement data
2. Identification of students eligible for school choice and supplemental educational services in any school identified for program improvement

(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)

(cf. [6190](#) - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

The Board further authorizes the release of information on the school lunch program application to the local agency that determines Medi-Cal program eligibility, provided that the student is approved for free meals and the parent/guardian consents to the sharing of information as provided by Education Code [49557.2](#).

(cf. [5141.6](#) - Student Health and Social Services)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

[48980](#) Notice at beginning of term

[49490-49494](#) School breakfast and lunch programs

[49500-49505](#) School meals

[49510-49520](#) Nutrition

[49530-49536](#) Child Nutrition Act of 1974

[49547-49548.3](#) Comprehensive nutrition service

[49550-49560](#) Meals for needy students

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

[1751-1769](#) National lunch programs

[1771-1791](#) Child nutrition

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 7

[245.1-245.13](#) Determination of eligibility for free and reduced price meals

Management Resources:

CDE LEGAL ADVISORIES

[0325.98](#) Education Code Section 49558 LO: 1-98

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Healthy Food Policy Resource Guide, 2003

USDA PUBLICATIONS

Team Nutrition, Food and Nutrition Services, Changing the Scene, Improving the School Nutrition Environment: A Guide to Local Action, 2000

WEB SITES

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

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

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

California Project LEAN: <http://www.californiaprojectlean.org>

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