

**FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS**

The Governing Board recognizes that adequate nutrition is essential to the development, health, and learning of all students. The Superintendent or designee shall facilitate and encourage the participation of students from low-income families in the district's food service program.

*(cf. 3551 – Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund)*

*(cf. 3552 – Summer Meal Program)*

*(cf. 5030 – Student Wellness)*

*(cf. 5148 – Child Care and Development)*

*(cf. 5148.2 – Before/After School Programs)*

*(cf. 6177 – Summer School)*

The district shall provide at least one nutritionally adequate meal each school day, free of charge or at a reduced price, for students whose families meet federal eligibility criteria. (Education Code 49550, 49552)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that meals provided through the free and reduced-price meals 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)*

The Board shall approve, and 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. 3555 – Nutrition Program Compliance)*

*(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)

If a student transfers from the district to another district or to a private school, the Superintendent or designee may release the student's eligibility status or a copy of his/her free and reduced-price meal application to the other district or school to assist in the continuation of the student's meal benefits.

The Board authorizes designated employees to use individual records pertaining to student eligibility for any free and reduced-price meal program for the purposes of: (Educational Code 49558)

**FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS (continued)**

1. Disaggregation of academic achievement data
2. In any school identified as a Title 1 program improvement school pursuant to 20 USC 6316 , identification of students eligible for school choice and supplemental educational services.

*(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 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 in accordance with Education Code 49557.2.

*(cf. 5141.6 - Student Health and Social Services)*

In addition, information on the school lunch program application may be released to the local agency that determines eligibility for participation in the CalFresh program or other nutrition assistance program, provided the student whose information is to be released is approved for free or reduced-price meals and his/her parent/guardian consents to the sharing of the information. Prior to releasing information to any such local agency, the Superintendent or designee and the local agency shall enter into a memorandum of understand that, at a minimum, shall include the roles and responsibilities of the district and the local agency, the process for sharing the information, and a statement that the local agency may use the information only for purposes directly related to the enrollment of families in the CalFresh or other nutrition assistance program. (Education Code 49557.3, 49558)

*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  
49510-49520 Nutrition  
49530-49536 Child Nutrition Act of 1974  
49547-49548.3 Comprehensive nutrition service  
49550-49561 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

**FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS (continued)**

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1751-1769h School Lunch Program National lunch programs

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 for Final Rule on Verification of Free/Reduced-Price Meals Applications, 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>

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

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*

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

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

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Policy

Adopted: August 4, 2005

Revised: February 16, 2012

**VACAVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Vacaville, California