



Book	Policy Manual
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Title	FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS
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8531 - FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS

The Board recognizes the importance of good nutrition to each student's educational performance.

~~[] OPTION ONE – Free and Reduced lunch eligibility option which should be the option selected for any district participating in the Federal school lunch program that has NOT received District wide approval through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) described in Option Two, below.~~

The Board may provide ~~needed~~ eligible children with breakfast and lunch at a reduced rate or at no charge to the student, as well as free milk for qualifying students.

Children eligible for free or reduced-price meals shall be determined by the criteria established by the Child Nutrition Program. These criteria are issued annually by the Federal government through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) administration of School Nutrition Programs.

The Board designates the Superintendent and/or Business Manager to determine, in accordance with Board standards, the eligibility of students for free and/or reduced-price meals.

The schools shall ~~annually~~ at least once annually close to the beginning of the school year notify all families of the availability, eligibility requirements, and/or application procedure for free and reduced-price meals by distributing an application to the family of each student enrolled in the school and shall seek out and apply for such Federal, State, and local funds as may be applied to the District's program of free and reduced-price meals. ~~The notice shall contain all information required by State and Federal regulation.~~

~~() and~~ The District shall seek out and apply for such Federal, State, and local funds as may be applied to the District's program of free and reduced-price meals.

Any student identified as homeless, a foster child, a runaway, a migrant, or who is enrolled in Head Start shall be considered eligible for free meals and free milk.

Students receiving free or reduced meals or milk shall not be subjected to any of the following actions related to their receipt of meal service:

- A. the District shall not publish or otherwise publicize names of children receiving free or reduced meals or milk;
- B. the District's meal service will not use special tokens or tickets that identify students as receiving free or reduced meals or milk;
- C. no student shall be required to work or perform any service in order to receive food service;
- D. students receiving free or reduced price meal service shall not be required to use a separate line or separate eating area, nor shall they be required to receive meals at a different time based on eligibility for the free or reduce

program; and

- E. all students shall have the same choices for meals and milk regardless of whether the student is paying full price or receiving free or reduced meal service benefits.

The Superintendent shall regularly evaluate the free and reduced lunch program to determine whether the District or school may qualify for special assistance certification or Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) to reduce the paperwork burden on families qualifying for free and reduced meals. Any schools identified as CEP eligible shall be notified.

~~[END OF OPTION 1]~~

~~[] OPTION TWO – Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) – May be selected only if the District has obtained approval from DPI to provide free meals to all students based on community poverty.~~

~~The District has received approval to extend free meals to all students through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Participation in CEP means that all students receive free meal service on an equal basis, and that no individual household applications may be collected, except as frequently as required by law to continue CEP eligibility. If any school is found in any fourth year of CEP to have a free or reduced lunch eligible student percentage less than twenty-five percent (25%) but more than fifteen percent (15%), the [] Superintendent [] Food Service Director **[END OF OPTIONS]** shall notify DPI and request an additional year of CEP eligibility prior to recertification.~~

~~[END OF OPTION 2]~~

~~Unless exempted by DPI, annually prior to a date established by the Department of Agriculture and/or the DPI, the () Superintendent Business Manager () Food Service Director **[END OF OPTIONS]** shall notify DPI of any school in the District that has twenty-five percent (25%) free and reduced lunch eligible or that has less than twenty-five percent (25%) but more than fifteen percent (15%) identified student percentage.~~

Nondiscrimination Statement

The following statement applies to all programs administered by the District that are funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA):

~~In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. This institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of Protected Classes: race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. The District's nondiscrimination statement below is complementary to the District's nondiscrimination policies, including Policy 2260 – Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Opportunity and Policy 1422/Policy 3122/Policy 4122 – Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity.~~

~~The Board does not discriminate on the basis of the Protected Classes. Protected Classes include:~~

- A. race;
- B. color;
- C. national origin;
- D. age;
- E. sex (including transgender gender status, change of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity);
- F. pregnancy;
- G. creed or religion;
- H. genetic information;
- I. handicap or disability (in accordance with Policy 1623, AG 1623A, and AG 1623B);
- J. marital status;
- K. citizenship status;
- L. veteran status;

