

Policy 3550: Food Service/Child Nutrition Program

Original Adopted Date: 3/13/2024

The Governing Board recognizes that adequate, nourishing food is essential to student health and well-being, development, and ability to learn. The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies to increase students' access to and participation in the district's food service programs and maintain fiscal integrity of the programs in accordance with law.

Foods and beverages available through the district's food service program shall:

1. Be carefully selected so as to contribute to students' nutritional well-being and the prevention of disease
2. Meet or exceed nutrition standards specified in law
3. Be prepared in ways that will appeal to students, retain nutritive quality, and foster lifelong healthful eating habits
4. Be served in age-appropriate portions
5. Be provided at no cost to students who request a meal

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall communicate information related to the district's food service programs to the public through available means, including, but not limited to, the district's website, social media, flyers, and school publications.

The district's food service program shall give priority to serving unprocessed foods and fresh fruits and vegetables.

District schools are encouraged to establish school gardens and/or farm-to-school projects to increase the availability of safe, fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables for school meals and to support the district's nutrition education program.

To the extent possible, the school meal program shall be coordinated with the nutrition education program, instructional program for teachers, parents/guardians and food service employees, available community resources, and other related district programs.

To encourage student participation in school meal programs, schools may offer multiple choices of food items within a meal service, provided all food items meet nutrition standards and all students are given an opportunity to select any food item.

The Superintendent or designee may invite students and parents/guardians to participate in the selection of foods of good nutritional quality for school menus.

Students shall be allowed adequate time and space to eat meals. To the extent possible, school, recess, and transportation schedules shall be designed to promote participation in school meal programs.

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically review the adequacy of school cafeterias and

facilities for food preparation and consumption.

In accordance with law, the Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a food safety program in order to reduce the risk of foodborne hazards at each step of the food preparation and service process.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the Board on student participation in the district's nutrition programs and the extent to which the district's food service program meets state and federal nutrition standards for foods and beverages. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall provide all necessary and available documentation required for the Administrative Review conducted by the California Department of Education (CDE) to ensure the food service program's compliance with federal requirements related to nutrition standards, meal patterns, provision of drinking water, school meal environment, food safety, and other areas as required by the CDE.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
5 CCR 15510	Mandatory meals for needy students
5 CCR 15530-15535	Nutrition education
5 CCR 15550-15565	School lunch and breakfast programs
5 CCR 15575-15578	Requirements for foods and beverages outside the federal meals program
Ed. Code 35182.5	Contracts for advertising
Ed. Code 38080-38103	Cafeteria; establishment and use
Ed. Code 45103.5	Contracts for management consulting services; restrictions
Ed. Code 48432.3	Voluntary enrollment in continuation education
Ed. Code 49430-49434	Pupil Nutrition, Health, and Achievement Act of 2001
Ed. Code 49490-49494	School breakfast and lunch programs
Ed. Code 49500-49505	School meals
Ed. Code 49501.5	California Universal Meals Program
Ed. Code 49510-49520	Nutrition
Ed. Code 49530-49536	Child Nutrition Act
Ed. Code 49540-49546	Child care food program
Ed. Code 49547-49548.3	Comprehensive nutrition services
Ed. Code 49550-49562	Meals for needy students
Ed. Code 49570	National School Lunch Act
Ed. Code 51795-51797	School instructional gardens

H&S Code 113700-114437

[California Retail Food Code: sanitation and safety requirements](#)

Federal

Description

42 USC 1751-1769j

School Lunch Program

42 USC 1758b

Local wellness policy

42 USC 1761

Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Feeding Option

42 USC 1769a

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

42 USC 1771-1793

Child Nutrition Act

42 USC 1772

Special Milk Program

42 USC 1773

School Breakfast Program

7 CFR 210.1-210.33

[National School Lunch Program](#)

7 CFR 215.1-215.18

Special Milk Program

7 CFR 220.2-220.22

National School Breakfast Program

7 CFR 245.1-245.13

Eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk

Management Resources

Description

California Department of Education
Publication

Healthy Children Ready to Learn, January 2005

California Department of Education
Publication

Professional Standards in the School Nutrition Programs,
Management Bulletin SNP-13-2020, Updated January 2022

California Project Lean Publication

Policy in Action: A Guide to Implementing Your Local School
Wellness Policy, October 2006

CSBA Publication

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

CSBA Publication

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

CSBA Publication

[Building Healthy Communities: A School Leader's Guide to
Collaboration and Community Engagement, 2009](#)

CSBA Publication

[Student Wellness: A Healthy Food and Physical Activity Policy
Resource Guide, rev. April 2006](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Publication

School Breakfast Toolkit

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Publication

Civil Rights Compliance and Enforcement - Nutrition
Programs and Activities, FNS Instruction 113-1, November
2005

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Publication

Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2005

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Publication

Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs, December
2007

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Publication

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program: Handbook for Schools,
December 2010

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Publication

Guidance for School Food Authorities: Developing a School
Food Safety Program Based on the Process Approach to
HACCP Principles, June 2005

Website

[CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services](#)

Website

[U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service](#)

Website

[California Farm Bureau Federation](#)

Website

[Nourish California](#)

Website

[California Project LEAN \(Leaders Encouraging Activity and
Nutrition\)](#)

Website

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Website

[California School Nutrition Association](#)

Website

[California Department of Education, Nutrition Services
Division](#)

Website

[National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity](#)

Website

[California Department of Public Health](#)

Website

[California Healthy Kids Resource Center](#)

Website

[CSBA](#)

Cross References

Code

0470

Description

[COVID-19 Mitigation Plan](#)

0500

[Accountability](#)

1312.4

[Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures](#)

1312.4-E(1)

[Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures](#)

1312.4-E(2)

[Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures](#)

1325

[Advertising And Promotion](#)

1340

[Access To District Records](#)

1340

[Access To District Records](#)

3000

[Concepts And Roles](#)

3260

[Fees And Charges](#)

3260

[Fees And Charges](#)

3510

[Green School Operations](#)

3514

[Environmental Safety](#)

3514	Environmental Safety
3517	Facilities Inspection
3517-E(1)	Facilities Inspection
3551	Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund
3551	Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund
3552	Summer Meal Program
3552	Summer Meal Program
3553	Free And Reduced Price Meals
3553	Free And Reduced Price Meals
3554	Other Food Sales
3554	Other Food Sales
3555	Nutrition Program Compliance
3555-E(1)	Nutrition Program Compliance
3580	District Records
3580	District Records
4131	Staff Development
4141.6	Concerted Action/Work Stoppage
4141.6	Concerted Action/Work Stoppage
4231	Staff Development
4241.6	Concerted Action/Work Stoppage
4241.6	Concerted Action/Work Stoppage
5030	Student Wellness
5141.27	Food Allergies/Special Dietary Needs
5141.27	Food Allergies/Special Dietary Needs
5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5145.6-E(1)	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5148	Child Care And Development
5148	Child Care And Development
5148.2	Before/After School Programs
5148.2	Before/After School Programs
5148.3	Preschool/Early Childhood Education
5148.3	Preschool/Early Childhood Education
6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education

6142.8	<u>Comprehensive Health Education</u>
6173	<u>Education For Homeless Children</u>
6173	<u>Education For Homeless Children</u>
6173-E(1)	<u>Education For Homeless Children</u>
6173-E(2)	<u>Education For Homeless Children</u>
6176	<u>Weekend/Saturday Classes</u>
7110	<u>Facilities Master Plan</u>