

BUSINESS AND NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund

Payment for Meals

With the exception of students who are eligible to receive meals at no cost, students may pay on a per-meal basis or may submit payments in advance. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a system for accurately recording payments received and tracking meals provided to each student.

(cf. 3550 – Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)

(cf. 3552 – Summer Meal Program)

(cf. 3553 – Free and Reduced Price Meals)

(cf. 3555 – Nutrition Program Compliance)

At the beginning of the school year, and whenever a student enrolls during the school year, parent/guardians shall be notified of the district's meal payment policies and encouraged to prepay for meals whenever possible. The Superintendent or designee shall communicate the district's meal payment policies through multiple methods, including, but not limited to:

1. Explaining the meal charge policy within registration materials provided to parents/guardians at the start of the school year
2. Including the policy in print versions of student handbooks, if provided to parents/guardians annually
3. Providing the policy whenever parents/guardians are notified regarding the application process for free and reduced-price meals, such as in the distribution of applications at the start of the school year.
4. Posting the policy on the district's web site
5. Establishing a system to notify parents/guardians when a student's meal payment account has a low or negative balance

(cf. 1113 – District and School Web Sites)

(cf. 5145.6 – Parental Notifications)

In order to avoid potential misuse of a student's food service account by someone other than the student in whose name the account has been established, the Superintendent or designee shall verify a student's identity when setting up the account and when charging any meal to the account. The Superintendent or designee shall investigate any claim that a bill does not belong to a student or is inaccurate, shall not require a student to pay a bill that appears to be the result of identity theft, and shall open a new account with a new account number for a student who appears to be the subject of identity theft.

(cf. 1340 – Access to District Records)

(cf. 3580 – District Records)

Any payments made to a student's food service account shall, if not used within the school year, be carried over into the next school year or be refunded to the student's parents/guardians.

Unpaid and Delinquent Meal Charges

Students and their parents/guardians shall be notified whenever their account has a low or negative balance. Whenever a student's account has an unpaid balance of \$50 or more, parents/guardians shall be notified in writing that the full payment is due within seven school days from the date of the notice.

In cases of repeated nonpayment by a student, the Superintendent or designee may contact parents/guardians to discuss the reasons for the nonpayment. The Superintendent or designee may evaluate individual circumstances to determine if the student's parents/guardians need assistance completing an application for free or reduced-price meals or need referral to social services.

The Superintendent or designee may enter into a repayment plan with a student's parents/guardians for payment of the student's unpaid meal charge balance over a period of time. As necessary, the repayment plan may allow the unrecovered or delinquent debt to carry over into the next fiscal year.

The district's efforts to collect debt shall be consistent with district policies and procedures, California Department of Education (CDE) guidance, and 2 CFR 200.426. The district shall not spend more than the actual debt owed in efforts to recover unpaid meal charges.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records of the efforts made to collect unpaid meal charges. All unpaid meal charges that are considered uncollectable will be billed to the district.

Reimbursement Claims

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records of the number of meals served each day by school site and by category of free, reduced-price, and full-price meals. The Superintendent or designee shall submit reimbursement claims for school meals to the California Department of Education (CDE) using the online Child Nutrition Information and Payment System.

Cafeteria Fund

All proceeds from food sales and other services offered by the cafeteria shall be deposited in the cafeteria fund as provided by law. The income and expenditures of any cafeteria revolving account established by the Governing Board shall be recorded as income and expenditures of the cafeteria fund. (Education Code 38090, 38091)

(cf. 3100 – Budget)

(cf. 3300 – Expenditures and Purchases)

The cafeteria fund shall be used only for those expenditures authorized by the Board as necessary for the operation of school cafeterias in accordance with Education Code 38100-38103, 2 CFR Part 200 Appendix VII, and the California School Accounting Manual.

Any charges to, or transfer from, a food service program shall be dated and accompanied by a written explanation of the expenditure's purpose and basis. (Education Code 38101)

Indirect costs charged to the food service program shall be based on either the district's prior year indirect cost rate or the statewide average approved indirect cost rate for the second prior fiscal year, whichever is less. (Education Code 38101)

Net cash resources in the nonprofit school food service shall not exceed three months average expenditures. (2 CFR 220.14)

U. S. Department of Agriculture Foods

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that foods received through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are handled, stored, and distributed in facilities which; (7 CFR 250.14)

1. Are sanitary and free from rodent, bird, insect, and other animal infestation
2. Safeguard foods against theft, spoilage, and other loss
3. Maintain foods at proper storage temperatures
4. Store foods off the floor in a manner to allow for adequate ventilation
5. Take other protective measures as may be necessary

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain inventories of USDA foods in accordance with 7 CFR 250.59 and CDE procedures, and shall ensure that foods are used before the expiration dates.

USDA donated foods shall be used in school lunches as far as practicable. USDA foods also may be used in other nonprofit food service activities, including, but not limited to, school breakfasts or other meals, a la carte foods sold to students, meals served to adults directly involved in the operation and administration of the food service to other school staff, and training in nutrition, health, food service, or general home economics instruction for students, provided that any revenues from such activities accrue to the district's nonprofit food service account. (7 CFR 250.590)

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