

Document Status: Draft Update

OPERATIONAL SERVICES

4:130 Free and Reduced-Price Food Services

Notice

The Superintendent shall be responsible for implementing the District's free and reduced-price food services policy and all applicable programs.

If State funding is available for the Healthy School Meals for All Program, the Board will annually determine if it will participate in the program. [PRESSPlus1](#)

Eligibility Criteria and Selection of Children

A student's eligibility for free and reduced-price food services shall be determined by the income eligibility guidelines, family-size income standards, set annually by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and distributed by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Notification

At the beginning of each school year, by letter, the District shall notify students and their parents/guardians of: (1) eligibility requirements for free and reduced-price food service; (2) the application process; (3) the name and telephone number of a contact person for the program; and (4) other information required by federal law. The Superintendent shall provide the same information to: (1) informational media, the local unemployment office, and any major area employers contemplating layoffs; and (2) the District's website (if applicable), all school newsletters, or students' registration materials. Parents/guardians enrolling a child in the District for the first time, any time during the school year, shall receive the eligibility information.

Nondiscrimination Assurance

The District shall avoid publicly identifying students receiving free or reduced-price meals and shall use methods for collecting meal payments that prevent identification of children receiving assistance.

Appeal

A family may appeal the District's decision to deny an application for free and reduced-price food services or to terminate such services as outlined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in [7 C.F.R. §245.7](#), Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Meals and Free Milk in Schools. The Superintendent shall establish a hearing procedure for adverse eligibility decisions and provide by mail a copy of them to the family. The District may also use these procedures to challenge a child's continued eligibility for free or reduced-price meals or milk.

During an appeal, students previously receiving food service benefits shall not have their benefits terminated. Students who were denied benefits shall not receive benefits during the appeal. The status of a student's appeal or eligibility for free or reduced-price food services shall not relieve the District of its obligation to provide him or her with a free meal or snack under the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act if he or she requests one, regardless of his or her ability to pay.

The Superintendent shall keep on file for a period of 3 years a record of any appeals made and the hearing record. The District shall also maintain accurate and complete records showing the data and method used to determine the number of eligible students served free and reduced-price food

services. These records shall be maintained for 3 years.

LEGAL REF.:

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, National School Lunch Program, [7 C.F.R. Part 210](#).

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Meals and Free Milk In Schools, [7 C.F.R. Part 245](#).

105 ILCS 125/, [School Breakfast](#) and [Lunch Program Act](#).

[105 ILCS 126/](#), [Childhood Hunger Relief Act](#).

[23 Ill.Admin.Code 305.10](#) *et seq.*

Adopted: February 13, 2019

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Optional. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 125/2.3, added by P.A. 103-532. Subject to appropriation, the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) is required to establish the Healthy School Meals for All Program. Participating boards must offer eligible meals, without charge, to all students enrolled in schools that participate in the National School Breakfast Program (NSBP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP). To receive State reimbursement under the Healthy School Meals for All Program, a board must: (1) annually notify ISBE of its intent to participate in the program; (2) maximize its access to federal funds for NSBP and NSLP by participating in the CEP or another special assistance alternative, if eligible, and (3) operate the NSBP and NSLP in a manner that in the opinion of ISBE, draws down the most possible federal funding for meals served in the NSBP and NSLP. If State funding is insufficient to cover reimbursement of all interested boards, ISBE is required to inform eligible schools of the impact of the inadequate funding so that boards can make an informed decision about food service administration in their districts. **Issue 113, October 2023**