



Book Policy Manual

Section Board Review Fall 2023 (38.1)

Title Vol. 38, No. 1 - September 2023 Revised FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS

Code po8531

Status

Adopted January 20, 1997

**Revised Policy - Vol. 38, No. 1**

**8531 - FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS**

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

The Board shall provide needy children with [ **x** ] breakfast and **[END OF OPTION]** lunch at a reduced rate or at no charge to the student.

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 State Department of Education.

**[DRAFTING NOTE: M.C.L. 388.1630d requires districts who receive funding to provide free school lunch and breakfast under that statute to implement a policy relating to the following. Therefore, the following option is recommended for districts that intend to apply for such funds.]**

x **1** Parents or guardians will be required to fill out relevant information to determine student eligibility for Federal free or reduced-cost meal reimbursement rates and CEP eligibility determinations.

The Board designates the ( **x** ) Superintendent (  ~~)~~ **[END OF OPTION]** to determine in accordance with Board standards, the eligibility of students for free and/or reduced-price meals.

The schools shall ( **x** ) annually (  ~~)~~ ~~twice a year~~ **[END OF OPTION]** 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 ( **x** ) 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 **[END OF OPTION]**.

**[DRAFTING NOTE: This section is NOT optional for districts who receive funding under M.C.L. 388.1631k]**

However, in accordance with the provisions outlined in State Aid Section 31k, this procedure prohibits:

- / the requiring of any student who cannot pay for a school meal or who has a negative meal payment balance to wear a wristband or handstamp;
- ℓ the requiring of any student who cannot pay for a school meal or who has a negative meal payment balance to perform chores or other work to pay for school meals;
- ℓ the requiring of any student to dispose of a meal after it has been served because the student is unable to pay for the meal or has a negative meal payment balance;
- ℓ communicating directly with a student about a student meal debt unless the District has attempted to contact, but has been unsuccessful in communicating with, a student's parent or legal guardian through telephone, mail, and email; and
- ℓ discussing a negative meal payment balance with a student in the presence of other students.

M.C.L. 380.1272 et seq.  
M.C.L. 388.1630d  
M.C.L. 388.1631k  
42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.  
42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.

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M.C.L. 380.1272 et seq.

M.C.L. 388.1630d

M.C.L. 388.1631k

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