

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Policies for LAT to review, 34-1 (Dec. 2024 release)
Title	Copy of FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS
Code	po8531 Josh - Done
Status	
Adopted	December 9, 2019
Last Revised	February 10, 2025

### 8531 - FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS

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

**~~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 shall provide 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, if the District participates in the Wisconsin School Day Milk Program.

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 the School Nutrition Programs.

The Board designates the School Nutrition Services Director to determine in accordance with Board standards, the eligibility of students for free and/or reduced-price meals.

The schools shall 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. The notice shall contain all information required by State and Federal regulations. 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;
- 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 District Administrator 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.

If the District has received approval to extend free meals to all students in one (1) or more of the District's schools through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), such participation in CEP means that all students attending those qualifying schools 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 x ] District Administrator [ ] Food Service Director [END OF OPTIONS] shall notify DPI and request an additional year of CEP eligibility prior to recertification.

Unless exempted by DPI, annually prior to a date established by the Department of Agriculture and/or the DPI, the Food Service Director 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, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of 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.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at:

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. Mail:  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. Fax:  
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. E-mail:  
[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Revised 2/14/22  
T.C. 5/8/23  
Revised 3/11/24

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Legal 115.34-115.345, 120.10(16), 120.13(10), Wis. Stats.  
42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.