

FRESNO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business and Noninstructional Operations
FOOD SERVICE / CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

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

Each school day, a nutritionally adequate breakfast and lunch shall be made available at no cost to any student who requests a meal, including a student enrolled in an independent study program on any school day in which the student is scheduled for in-person educational activities of two or more hours. A nutritionally adequate breakfast or lunch is one that qualifies for reimbursement under the most current meal pattern for the federal School Breakfast Program or National School Lunch Program. (Education Code 49501.5)

Foods and beverages available through the County Superintendent'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 and administrative regulation.
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.

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

The County Superintendent's food service program shall give priority to serving freshly prepared meals, using whole or minimally processed foods and fresh fruits and vegetables.

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 County Superintendent's nutrition education program.

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 County Superintendent and County Board desire to provide students with adequate time and space to eat meals. To the extent possible, school, recess, and transportation schedules shall be designed to encourage participation in school meal programs.

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The County Superintendent or designee shall periodically review the adequacy of school facilities for food preparation and consumption.

In accordance with law, the County 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.

Staff shall annually report to the County Superintendent on student participation in nutrition programs and the extent to which the food services program meets state and federal nutrition standards for foods and beverages. In addition, the County 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.

Adopted: 11/15/2007

Amended: 01/19/2012, 12/12/2023, 11/21/2024

Legal ReferencesEducation Code

35182.5 Contracts, non-nutritious beverages
38080-38103 Cafeteria, establishment and use
45103.5 Contracts for management consulting services; restrictions
49430-49434 Pupil Nutrition, Health, and Achievement Act of 2001
48432.3 Voluntary enrollment in continuation education
49430-49434 Pupil Nutrition, Health, and Achievement Act of 2001
49490-49494 School breakfast and lunch programs
49501.5-49506 School meals
49510-49520 Nutrition
49530-49536 Child Nutrition Act
49540-49546 Child care food program
49547-49548.3 Comprehensive nutrition services
49550.3-49562 Meals for needy students
49570 National School Lunch Act
51795-51797 School instructional gardens

Health and Safety Code

113700-114437 California Retail Food Code

Code of Regulations, Title 5

15510 Mandatory meals for needy students
15530-15535 Nutrition education
15550-15565 School lunch and breakfast programs
15575-15578 Requirements for foods and beverages outside federal meal programs

United States Code, Title 42

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1751-1769j National School Lunch Program
1758b Local wellness policy
1761 Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Feeding Option
1769a Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
1771-1793 Child nutrition, especially:
1772 Special Milk Program
1773 National School Breakfast Program

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 7

210.1-210.31 National School Lunch Program
215.1-215.18 Special Milk Program
220.2-220.22 National School Breakfast Program
245.1-245.13 Eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk

Management Resources

CSBA Publications

Monitoring for Success: A Guide for Assessing and Strengthening Student Wellness Policies, 2012
Building Healthy Communities: A School Leader's Guide to Collaboration and Community Engagement, 2009
Nutrition Standards for Schools: Implications for Student Wellness, Policy Brief, rev. October 2007
Monitoring for Success: Student Wellness Policy Implementation Monitoring Report and Guide, 2008
Student Wellness: A Healthy Food and Physical Activity Policy Resource Guide, rev. April 2006

California Department of Education Publications

Professional Standards in the School Nutrition Programs, Management Bulletin SNP-13-2020, Updated January 2022
Healthy Children Ready to Learn, 2006

California Department of Food and Agriculture Publications

Planting the Seed: Farm to School Roadmap for Success, February 2022

California Project Lean Publications

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

U.S. Department of Agriculture Publications

School Breakfast Toolkit
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program: Handbook for Schools, December 2010
Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs, May 2022
Civil Rights Compliance and Enforcement - Nutrition Programs and Activities, FNS Instruction 113-1, November 2005

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Guidance for School Food Authorities: Developing a School Food Safety Program Based on the Process Approach to HACCP Principles, June 2005
Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020

Websites

CSBA: <https://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, Nutrition Services Division: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu>

California Department of Public Health: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov>

California Farm Bureau Federation: <https://www.cfbf.com>

California Food Policy Advocates: <https://www.cfpa.net>

California Healthy Kids Resource Center: <http://www.californiahealthykids.org>

California Project LEAN (Leaders Encouraging Activity and Nutrition):
<https://www.californiaprojectlean.org>

California School Nutrition Association: <https://www.calsna.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov>

National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity: <https://www.cspinet.org/nutritionpolicy/nana.html>

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fns>