

ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE OR REDUCED COST MEALS

Children who attend school in the district will be provided nutritionally acceptable meals at no cost or at a reduced cost if they are unable to pay the regular price. Whether or not a particular child is eligible for free or reduced price meals or milk will be determined by the Director of Auxiliary Services in consultation with the building principal in accordance with guidelines set by the National School Lunch Program. Decisions on eligibility may be appealed to the hearing officer.

In accordance with the guidelines for participation in the National School Lunch Program and in accordance with the wishes of the Board, no child who a teacher believes is improperly nourished will be denied a meal simply because the proper papers have not been filed by the child's parent(s) or guardian. The needs of the child will always be considered first.

The criteria and procedures for determining a student's need and the steps to secure free or reduced price meals will be outlined and made known to the general public by the Director of Auxiliary Services. These criteria and procedures are established at the state/federal level.

Students who participate in free or reduced price meal programs will not be distinguished in any way from students who pay the regular price; great care will be taken to protect the anonymity of these students. Their names will not be made known to any person except such staff member or members as needed to make the special arrangements for them.

The Board, in accordance with state and federal requirements, adopts an annual policy statement as recommended by the Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs Division, State of Iowa.

Legal Reference: 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751 et seq. (1988).  
7 C.F.R. Pt. 210 et seq. (1993).  
Iowa Code ch. 283A (1995).  
281 I.A.C. 58.

Cross-Reference: 710 School Food Services

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