

Policy 3550: Food Service/Child Nutrition Program

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 11/01/2007 | Last Revised Date: 05/11/2022 | Last Reviewed Date: 05/11/2022

The Governing Board recognizes that adequate, nourishing food is essential to student health, development, and ability to learn. The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies to increase students' access to the district's food service programs and to maximize their participation in available programs and maintain fiscal integrity of the program in accordance with law.

Foods and beverages available through the district'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
~~Be available to students who meet federal eligibility criteria at no cost or at reduced prices, and to other students at reasonable prices~~

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designer shall communicate information related to the district's food service programs to the public through available means, including, but not limited to, the district's website, social media, fliers, and school publications.

One nutritionally adequate breakfast and one nutritionally adequate lunch shall be available at no cost each school day to any student who requests a meal, regardless of the student's eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-priced meal (SB 348, 2023). Students may purchase additional nutritionally adequate breakfasts and/or lunches after the first free meals have been provided at no cost (AB 95, 2023).

The district's food service program shall give priority to serving unprocessed foods and fresh fruits and vegetables. The District shall incorporate school food best practices, including serving freshly prepared onsite meals using minimally processed, locally grown, and sustainable food, and giving priority to California-grown or produced foods (SB 114, 2023).

District 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, positively impact student knowledge related to food and nutrition, to support the district's nutrition education program, and increase student consumption of these foods and participation in school meals.

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 Superintendent or designee may invite students and parents/guardians to participate in the selection of foods of good nutritional quality for school menus.

Students shall be allowed ~~The Board desires to provide students with~~ adequate time and space to eat meals. (Education Code 49501.5)

To the extent possible, school, recess, and transportation schedules shall be designed to encourage participation in school meal programs.

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

In accordance with law, the 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 process, from receiving to service.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually report to the Board on student participation in the district's nutrition

programs and the extent to which the district's food services program meets state and federal nutrition standards for foods and beverages. In addition, the 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.
