

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE FOOD SERVICES

To assure that every student, regardless of his family's financial status, may benefit from a nutritious meal in the middle of the school day, the public schools will participate in the National School Lunch Program.

Parents will be informed at the beginning of each school year of the eligibility requirements for participation by their children. However, in accordance with the guidelines of the program, no child who a teacher believes is improperly nourished will be denied a free or reduced price lunch simply because proper application has not been made by the parent or guardian.

School committees are required to adopt a policy statement pertaining to the school system's participation in and procedures for determining the eligibility of students for free milk and free or reduced priced meals. Accordingly, the school committee shall:

1. Delineate the criteria used in determining the eligibility of children for participation in the program.
2. Name one staff member within each school as the official to determine eligibility.
3. Make applications for free or reduced price meals available to parents, interested community groups and agencies and initiate applications for children when this need has not been met by parents or others.
4. Establish an appeal procedure for parents or others when an application has been denied.
5. Specify procedures for conducting appeal hearings.
6. Collect lunch payments from all paying students and account for free or reduced price meals in a manner that will protect the anonymity of students receiving a free or reduced price meal.
7. Protect from public view and announcement the names of students who are receiving, or who have applied for, free or reduced price meals.
8. Publicly announce the availability of, and general eligibility requirements for, the free/reduced price lunch program early in each school year, along with the procedure for making application.
9. Inform all local governmental welfare and other major charitable agencies of the full state regulations and local procedures.

Current practice codified 1989

Adopted: Date of Manual Adoption

Legal References: National School Lunch Act, as amended (42 USC 1751-1760)

Child Nutrition Act of 1966, PL 89-642, 80 Stat. 885, as amended

MGL 15:1G; 15:1L; 71:72

Chapter 548 of the Acts of 1958, as amended

Board of Education Regulations Governing the Operation of National School Lunch Program, Special Milk Program, Commodity Distribution Program, School Breakfast and Nonfood Assistance Program, Food Service Program for Children, effective 8/1/69 as amended 1/30/74 and 4/1/74.