

## **FREE AND REDUCED PRICE FOOD SERVICES**

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

In accordance with guidelines for participation in these programs, and in accordance with the direction of the School Committee, no child who a teacher believes is improperly nourished will be denied a free lunch or other food simply because proper application has not been received from their parents or guardians. Parents will be informed at the beginning of each school year of the eligibility requirements for participation by their children.

As required by state and federal regulations, the School Committee approves this policy statement pertaining to eligibility for free milk, free meals, and reduced price meals.

Accordingly, the School Department shall:

- Establish an appeal procedure for parents or others when an application has been denied.
- Specify procedures for conducting appeal hearings.
- 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.
- Protect from public view and announcement the names of students who are receiving, or who have applied for, free or reduced price meals.
- 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.
- 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

Source: MASC August 2016

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2<sup>nd</sup>/final reading & amended: March 1, 2021