

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE FOOD SERVICES

The school system shall take part in the National School Lunch Program to assure that all children in the district have an opportunity to receive a balanced meal. The Director of Finance and Operations will review all circumstances for requests of free or reduced price meals that may fall outside the federal guidelines.

In this policy the School Committee shall:

1. Agree to abide and delineate the State-established criteria for determining eligibility.
2. The Director of Finance and Operations and/or designee is the official to determine eligibility.
3. Provide applications for free or reduced price meals to parents, interested community groups, and agencies, and initiating applications for children when this need has not been met by parents or others.
4. Automatically enroll students whose name is listed on the Direct Certification list issued by the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
5. Establish a route of appeal for parents or others when an application has been denied.
6. Specify procedures for conducting appeal hearings in accordance with the manner set forth by state regulations.
7. Name one of the methods recommended by the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for collecting lunch payments from all paying students, in order to protect the anonymity of the students receiving a free or reduced price meal.
8. Agree to protect the names of students who are receiving, or who have applied for, free or reduced price meals.
9. Agree to 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.
10. Agree to inform all local governmental welfare and other major charitable agencies of the full state regulations and local procedures.
11. Agree to submit to the Food Program Administration of the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education all reports and exhibits specified in state regulations.

Approved

November 21, 2011