

Business and Non-Instructional Operations

Free or Reduced Price Lunches

The Stafford Public Schools will participate in the National School Lunch, School Breakfast and Special Milk Programs. Authorization is granted to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee to act on behalf of the Board for purposes of participating in these programs. All applicable state and federal guidelines will be followed.

Free meals will be served to children from families whose income falls within the current criteria established by the Secretary of Agriculture under the Federal Lunch Program for free lunches. Special hardship conditions shall also be considered. Such hardship conditions, which could not be reasonably anticipated or controlled by the household include unusually high medical expenses, shelter costs in excess of 30 percent of reported income, special education expenses due to mental or physical condition for a child, and disaster or casualty losses. Children who are placed in foster homes by state welfare and who present eligibility forms shall also be served free meals.

The District shall establish an appeals process under which a parent/guardian may appeal a decision regarding his/her initial application for benefits, or any subsequent reduction or termination of benefits.

The schools shall not physically segregate or discriminate against any child because of his or her inability to pay for a meal. The names of children eligible to receive free meals shall not be published, posted, or announced in any manner; and there shall be no overt identification of any such children by use of special tokens or tickets, or by any other means.

The District shall ensure that, in the operation of the free and reduced-price meals and/or free milk programs, no student shall be discriminated against because of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or disability, or any other basis prohibited by law, in its implementation of such a program.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-215 Lunches, breakfasts and other feeding programs for public school children and employees.
 10-215a Non-public school participation in feeding program
 10-215b Duties of State Board of Education re feeding program
 10-216 Payment of expenses.
 State Board of Education Regulations
 United States Department of Agriculture 7 C.F.R. 15, re nondiscrimination.
 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1758, 7 CFR Part 145, Sec. 245.5, 245.6, 245.7, 210.9, 210.20.

Policy adopted: April 26, 2004
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STAFFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Stafford Springs, Connecticut