

Business and Non-Instructional Operations

Free Lunch, Reduced Price Meal and Special Milk Program

The Regional District #10 Board of Education has agreed to participate in the National School Lunch Program and the Special Milk Program and accepts responsibility for providing free or reduced price meals to eligible children in the schools under its jurisdiction.

The school food authority assures the Connecticut State Department of Education that the school system will uniformly implement the following policy to determine children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals in all National School Lunch Program Schools under its jurisdiction and to determine children's eligibility for free milk in all Special Milk Program schools under its jurisdiction. In fulfilling its responsibilities the school food authority agrees to:

- A. Serve free or reduced price meals to children from families whose income is at or below that recommended by the National School Lunch Program.
- B. Serve milk free to children from families whose income is at or below that recommended by the National School Lunch Program.
- C. Provide these benefits to any child whose family's income falls within the established criteria after deductions are made for special hardship conditions which could not reasonably be anticipated or controlled by the household, due to unusually high medical expenses, shelter costs in excess of 30 percent of reported income, special education expenses due to mental or physical condition of a child, and disaster or casualty losses; in addition, agrees to provide these benefits to foster children in certain cases.
- D. Permit no physical segregation of, nor any other discrimination against any child because of his inability to pay the full price of the meal or milk. The names of the children eligible to receive free or reduced price meals and free milk shall not be published, posted or announced in any manner and there shall be no overt identification of any such children by use of special tokens or tickets or any other means. Further assurance is given that children eligible for free or reduced price meals or free milk shall not be required to:
 - 1. work for their meals or milk
 - 2. use a separate lunchroom;
 - 3. go through a separate serving line
 - 4. enter the lunchroom through a separate entrance
 - 5. eat meals or drink milk at a different time
 - 6. eat a meal different from the one sold to children paying the full price or drink milk different from that sold to children paying the full price.

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Free Lunch, Reduced Price Meal and Special Milk Program (cont.)

- E. Permit no child to be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, or national origin.
- F. Establish and use a fair hearing procedure for parents' appeals of the school's decisions on applications and for school officials' challenges to the correctness of information contained in an application or to the continued eligibility of any child for free or reduced price meals or free milk. During the appeal and hearing, the child will continue to receive free or reduced price meals or free milk. A record of all such appeals and challenges and their dispositions shall be retained for three (3) years.

Policy adopted: August 1977
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