

E-19 (EFC) Free and Reduced-Price Food Services

The district shall take part as feasible in the National School Lunch and other food programs which may become available to ensure that all students in the district receive proper nourishment.

The administration shall establish regulations regarding participation in programs for free and reduced price meals and supplementary food in accordance with applicable state and federal law.

LEGAL REFS.: 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq. (National School Lunch Act)

7 C.F.R. 245.5 (must inform families of the availability of reimburseable school meals and provide information about applying for free or reduced price meals)

C.R.S. [22-32-120](#) (food services)

C.R.S. [22-82.7-101](#) et seq. (Start Smart Nutrition Program provides funding to eliminate amount students who qualify for reduced price meals pay in school breakfast program)

C.R.S. [22-82.9-101](#) et seq. (Child Nutrition School Lunch Protection Program provides funding to eliminate amount students in preschool through fifth grade pay for school lunch program, if they qualify for reduced price meals)

CROSS REF.: [EF](#), Food Services

ADF, School Wellness

NOTE 1: Registration materials that accompany the pupil application form for students to participate under the National School Lunch Act shall include an explanation to parents that the form will be used to determine if the school is eligible for at-risk funding on behalf of the pupil. By completing the form, the parent is ensuring that the school district will receive the at-risk funding to which it is entitled.
C.R.S. [22-54-112](#) (4).

NOTE 2: Schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program and have seventy percent or more students eligible for free or reduced-cost lunch must offer a free breakfast to each student. C.R.S. [22-82.8-103](#) (3)(b). The breakfast may be served at a time determined by the school, as long as it occurs after the first bell. C.R.S. [22-82.8-103](#) (3)(c). Small rural districts with a student population of less than 1,000 students are exempt from this requirement and there is also flexibility for other specific situations (e.g. funding decrease, before-school care programs).

Adopted: December 9, 2015

Revised: June 21, 2017

E-19 (EFC) Free and Reduced-Price Food Services Guidelines

Free and reduced price meals shall be provided to eligible students. In determining eligibility, the following criteria shall apply:

- The School District shall determine which individual children are eligible for a free or reduced price meal in accordance with applicable law.
- The School District shall notify the parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year or as otherwise required by law of the availability of free and reduced cost lunch and the eligibility criteria.
- The School District shall provide forms (Exhibit A) to parents/guardians on which application for consideration of eligibility of their children for free and reduced cost lunches can be made.
- The School District shall provide a free or reduced cost lunch to children upon approval of the application.
- If the application is denied, the parents/guardians may appeal this decision and a hearing will be conducted under the Hearing Procedure prescribed in Section 9 of the National School Lunch Act, as amended. During the pendency of the hearing the child shall continue to receive free or reduced cost meals.
- The School District shall provide free or reduced meals to all eligible students in accordance with the National School Lunch Act.
 - Homeless and Migrant students receive free lunch all year without filling out a free or reduced form. The student's status is confirmed by the District's Homeless/Migrant Liaison.
- Children receiving free or reduced price meals shall not be discriminated against or treated differently and their anonymity shall be protected in accordance with the requirements of law.

Adopted: December 9, 2015