

~~Palos Verdes Peninsula USD~~

CSBA Sample

Administrative Regulation

Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund

AR 3551

Business and Noninstructional Operations

Note: Districts that provide breakfast and/or lunch free of charge to all students (i.e., "universal meal service") at one or more schools pursuant to 42 USC 1759a or Education Code 49550.5 should revise the following administrative regulation accordingly. Also see BP/AR 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals.

Payments for Meals

Note: State and federal law (Education Code 49550; 42 USC 1758, 1773) require that all students eligible for free and reduced-price meals receive a reimbursable meal during each school day, which must be the same meal choice offered to noneligible students; see BP/AR 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals. California Department of Education (CDE) Nutrition Services Division Management Bulletin SNP-03-2018 clarifies that districts therefore cannot serve an alternate meal (i.e., a meal that is different than the day's advertised meal) to a student eligible for reduced-price meals who does not have the ability to pay or who fails to provide a meal ticket or other medium of exchange on a given day.

Note: In addition to providing meals at no cost to students who are eligible, the district may offer meals at no cost to students who qualify for reduced-price benefits. Districts that choose to eliminate reduced-price meal charges may still claim the meals at the reduced-price rate, but the cost difference between the reduced-price meal and the no-cost meal must be covered by the district's cafeteria fund. For more information, see the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Memorandum SP 17-2014.

Note: The following section includes recommendations of the CDE's Nutrition Services Division Management Bulletin and the USDA's "FAQs About School Meals" on the USDA's web site and may be revised to reflect district practice.

With the exception of students who are eligible to receive meals at no cost, students may pay on a per-meal basis or may submit payments in advance. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a system for accurately recording payments received and tracking meals provided to each student.

(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)

(cf. 3552 - Summer Meal Program)

(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

(cf. 3555 - Nutrition Program Compliance)

Note: CDE's program monitoring process (the Administrative Review) requires districts to continually notify parents/guardians of district policies regarding meal payments, including charge accounts and alternate meals if applicable. Districts should, at a minimum, inform parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year and on an ongoing basis of district practices for students who have lost or forgotten their meal payment. In addition, districts should set up a system for notifying parents/guardians when a student's meal payment account has a low or negative balance.

Note: According to USDA's Memorandum SP-23-2017, the district's policy on delinquent meal payments must be communicated in writing to all households at the start of each school year and to households transferring to the school during the school year. CDE's Nutrition Services Division Management Bulletin SNP-03-2017 states that, at a minimum, districts should use the methods specified below to communicate the district's meal policy.

At the beginning of the school year, and whenever a student enrolls during the school year, parents/guardians shall be notified of the district's meal payment policies and be encouraged to prepay for meals whenever possible. The Superintendent or designee shall communicate the district's meal payment policies through multiple methods, including, but not limited to:

1. Explaining the meal charge policy within registration materials provided to parents/guardians at the start of the school year
2. Including the policy in print versions of student handbooks, if provided to parents/guardians annually
3. Providing the policy whenever parents/guardians are notified regarding the application process for free and reduced-price meals, such as in the distribution of applications at the start of the school year
4. Posting the policy on the district's web site
5. Establishing a system to notify parents/guardians when a student's meal payment account has a low or negative balance

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

***Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. According to the USDA's "FAQs About School Meals," any district that participates in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Program and has one or more schools which use a system of meal tickets (or tokens, cards, or other similar medium of exchange) may limit the number of lost or stolen tickets it will replace for students each school year, as long as the limit is set at three or more. However, such a limit may only be established if the school (1) advises students and parents/guardians of the district's rules regarding replacement tickets at the

beginning of the school year and/or when applications for free and reduced-price meals are distributed or approved; (2) maintains a list of students who have reported lost and stolen tickets and the number of occurrences for each student; (3) issues at least one advance warning to the student or the student's parent/guardian prior to refusing to issue a replacement ticket; and (4) does not deny meals to prekindergarten or younger primary students or students with disabilities who may be unable to take full responsibility for their meal tickets. Although these requirements apply only to students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals, the USDA recommends that districts apply the same limits for students who pay full price for their meals in order to ensure that needy students are not overtly identified because of a disparate ticket replacement policy.***

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

Note: Pursuant to CDE's Nutrition Services Division Management Bulletin SNP-03-2017, districts must ensure that students who are approved for reduced-price meals receive all meals that are paid for. Any excess payments must be either carried over or refunded to the parents/guardians. The following paragraph extends this provision to also apply to students paying for full-price meals.

Any payments made to a student's food service account shall, if not used within the school year, be carried over into the next school year or be refunded to the student's parents/guardians.

Unpaid and Delinquent Meal Charges

Note: The following section reflects requirements applicable to districts participating in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Program and may also be used by districts that do not participate in the program. Pursuant to USDA Memorandum SP 46-2016, districts participating in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Program are mandated to have a written and clearly communicated meal charge policy which includes, but is not limited to, policy on the collection of delinquent meal charge debt. Such policy may be consistent for all students or vary by grade level. The following section may be revised to reflect district practice.

Note: At its discretion, the district may choose to also notify parents/guardians before the student's meal account reaches a negative balance. The following paragraph may be modified to reflect district practice.

No later than 10 days after a student's school meal account has reached a negative balance, the Superintendent or designee shall so notify the student's parent/guardian. Before sending this notification, the district shall exhaust all options and methods to directly certify the student for free or reduced-price meals. If the district is not able to directly certify the student, the notice to the parent/guardian shall include a paper copy of, or an electronic link to, an application for free or reduced-price meals and the Superintendent or designee shall contact the parent/guardian to encourage submission of the application. (Education Code 49557.5)

The district may attempt to collect unpaid school meal fees from a parent/guardian, but shall not use a debt collector. (Education Code 49557.5)

Note: The following optional paragraph reflects CDE guidance in its Nutrition Services Division Management Bulletin SNP-03-2017.

The Superintendent or designee may enter into an agreement with a student's parent/guardian for payment of the student's unpaid meal charge balance over a period of time. As necessary, the repayment plan may allow the unrecovered or delinquent debt to carry over into the next fiscal year.

The district shall not direct any action toward a student to collect unpaid school meal fees. (Education Code 49557.5)

Note: CDE's Nutrition Services Division Management Bulletin SNP-03-2017 requires that the district's unpaid meal policy conform with the cost principles set forth in 2 CFR 200.426, as provided below.

The district's efforts to collect debt shall be consistent with district policies and procedures, California Department of Education (CDE) guidance, and 2 CFR 200.426. The district shall not spend more than the actual debt owed in efforts to recover unpaid meal charges.

Note: Pursuant to CDE's Nutrition Services Division Management Bulletin SNP-03-2017, delinquent debt must be reclassified as bad debt and written off as an operating loss if it is not paid by the end of the fiscal year in which the debt was incurred, unless the district enters into a repayment plan with the parent/guardian prior to the end of the fiscal year or the debt occurs fewer than 90 days prior to the end of the fiscal year. Federal funds are not available to reimburse the district for bad debt. Districts are required to maintain related records in accordance with 7 CFR 210.9 and 210.15.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records of the efforts made to collect unpaid meal charges and, if applicable, financial documentation showing when the unpaid meal balance has become an operating loss.

Reimbursement Claims

Note: To streamline administration of state and federal meal programs, CDE has developed an online Child Nutrition Information and Payment System which must be used to submit reimbursement claims and to submit and track the status of applications and USDA food requests.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records of the number of meals served each day by school site and by category of free, reduced-price, and full-price meals. The Superintendent or designee shall submit reimbursement claims for school meals to CDE using the online Child Nutrition Information and Payment System.

Donation of Leftover Food

To minimize waste and reduce food insecurity, the district may provide sharing tables where students and staff may return appropriate unused cafeteria food items to be made available to students during the course of a regular school meal time. If food on the sharing tables is not taken by a student, the school cafeteria may donate the food to a food bank or any other nonprofit charitable organization. (Health and Safety Code 114079)

(cf. 3510 - Green School Operations)

Food that may be donated includes prepackaged, nonpotentially hazardous food with the packaging still intact and in good condition, whole uncut produce, unopened bags of sliced fruit, unopened containers of milk that are immediately stored in a cooling bin maintained at 41 degrees Fahrenheit or below, and perishable prepackaged food if it is placed in a proper temperature-controlled environment. The preparation, safety, and donation of food shall be consistent with Health and Safety Code 113980. (Health and Safety Code 114079)

Cafeteria Fund

Note: Education Code 38093 authorizes the Governing Board to establish one or more cafeteria revolving accounts to be treated as revolving cash accounts of the cafeteria fund.

All proceeds from food sales and other services offered by the cafeteria shall be deposited in the cafeteria fund as provided by law. The income and expenditures of any cafeteria revolving account established by the Governing Board of Education shall be recorded as income and expenditures of the cafeteria fund. (Education Code 38090, ~~38091~~38093)

(cf. 3100 - Budget)

(cf. 3300 - Expenditures and Purchases)

Note: Education Code 38101, as amended by AB 3043 (Ch. 593, Statutes of 2018), permits a district, with approval from CDE, to utilize cafeteria funds to pay for the purchase of a mobile food facility. However, if the district uses federal reimbursements from any of the federal child nutrition programs for such purchase, the mobile food facility shall only be used to support the administration of those federal programs. Mobile food facilities used for any purposes other than to support the administration of federal child nutrition programs shall not be purchased with cafeteria funds.

The cafeteria fund shall be used only for those expenditures authorized by the Board as necessary for the operation of school cafeterias in accordance with Education Code 38100-38103, 2 CFR Part 200 Appendix VII, and the California School Accounting Manual.

***Note: The following optional paragraph is for use by districts that choose to provide universal breakfast (free of charge to all students) at one or more schools. Pursuant to Education Code 49550.5, as added by AB 3043, districts may use cafeteria funds to supplement the cost of providing universal breakfast provided they submit the required certification to CDE. The

requirement to submit certification does not apply to any district that provides universal breakfast pursuant to a federally authorized provision (e.g., Provision 1, 2, or 3 or the Community Eligibility Provision of the National School Lunch Act).***

Any charges to, or transfers from, a food service program shall be dated and accompanied by a written explanation of the expenditure's purpose and basis. (Education Code 38101)

(cf. 3110 - Transfer of Funds)

Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. 2 CFR Part 200 Appendix VII and USDA guidance SP 60-2016, Indirect Costs: Guidance for State Agencies and School Food Authorities, provide information regarding allowable indirect costs that may be charged to the nonprofit school food service account. Indirect costs are those that are incurred for the benefit of multiple programs or objectives and typically support administrative overhead functions (e.g., accounting, payroll, purchasing, utilities, janitorial services). Each program or objective that benefits from the indirect cost bears a commensurate portion of the cost. Costs may be charged to the nonprofit food service account only if properly documented.

Indirect costs charged to the food service program shall be based on either the district's prior year indirect cost rate as approved by CDE or the statewide average approved indirect cost rate for the second prior fiscal year, whichever is less. (Education Code 38101)

Note: Pursuant to 7 CFR 210.14 and 220.7, net cash resources (i.e., all monies that have accrued to the nonprofit school food service at any given time, less cash payable) should not exceed three months average expenditures. If there is a surplus, then according to USDA guidance, Indirect Costs: Guidance for State Agencies and School Food Authorities, the district must lower the price of paid lunches, improve food quality, or make other improvements to school meal operations. CDE's Nutrition Services Division Management Bulletin NSD-SNP-07-2013 provides that the spending plan developed by the district under such circumstances must be approved by the CDE.

Net cash resources in the nonprofit school food service shall not exceed three months average expenditures. (~~27~~ CFR ~~210.14, 220.147~~)

U.S. Department of Agriculture Foods

Note: The ~~Superintendent or designee shall~~ following optional section is for use by districts that participate in the National School Lunch Program and receive foods from the USDA pursuant to 42 USC 1755 and 7 CFR 250.1-250.70. CDE is responsible for ordering and distributing USDA foods for use in California schools. Pursuant to 42 USC 1758, USDA must ensure that foods offered through this program reflect the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

The district shall provide facilities for the storage and control of foods received through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) ~~are handled, stored, and distributed in facilities which that~~

protect against theft, spoilage, damage, or other loss. Such storage facilities shall maintain donated foods in sanitary conditions, at the proper temperature and humidity, and with adequate air circulation. The district shall comply with all federal, state, or local requirements related to food safety and health and procedures for responding to a food recall, as applicable, and shall obtain all required health inspections. (7 CFR 250.14)

- ~~1. Are sanitary and free from rodent, bird, insect, and other animal infestation~~
- ~~2. Safeguard foods against theft, spoilage, and other loss~~
- ~~3. Maintain foods at proper storage temperatures~~
- ~~4. Store foods off the floor in a manner to allow for adequate ventilation~~
- ~~5. Take other protective measures as may be necessary~~

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain inventories of USDA foods in accordance with 7 CFR 250.59 and CDE procedures, and shall ensure that foods are used before their expiration dates.

USDA donated foods shall be used in school lunches as far as practicable. _USDA foods also may be used in other nonprofit food service activities, including, but not limited to, school breakfasts or other meals, a la carte foods sold to students, meals served to adults directly involved in the operation and administration of the food service and to other school staff, and training in nutrition, health, food service, or general home economics instruction for students, provided that any revenues from such activities accrue to the district's nonprofit food service account. (7 CFR 250.59)

Contracts with Outside Services

Note: The following optional section is for use by districts that contract for food service management services pursuant to Education Code 49554, 42 USC 1758, or 7 CFR 210.16 or consulting services pursuant to Education Code 45103.5, and should be modified to reflect the type(s) of contracts the district maintains; see the accompanying Board policy.

The term of any contract for food service management or consulting services shall not exceed one year. Any renewal of the contract or further requests for proposals to provide such services shall be considered on a year-to-year basis. (Education Code 45103.5; 7 CFR 210.16)

Any contract for management of the food service operation shall be approved by CDE and comply with the conditions in Education Code 49554 and 7 CFR 210.16 as applicable. _The district shall retain control of the quality, extent, and general nature of its food services, including prices to be charged to students for meals, and shall monitor the food service operation through periodic on-site visits. The district shall not enter into a contract with a food service company to provide a la carte food services only, unless the company agrees to offer free, reduced-price, and full-price reimbursable meals to all eligible students. (Education Code

49554; 42 USC 1758; 7 CFR 210.16)

Any contract for consulting services shall not result in the supervision of food service classified staff by the management consultant, nor shall it result in the elimination of any food service classified staff or position or have any adverse effect on the wages, benefits, or other terms and conditions of employment of classified food service staff or positions. All persons providing consulting services shall be subject to applicable employment conditions related to health and safety as listed in Education Code 45103.5. (Education Code 45103.5)

(cf. 3312 - Contracts)

(cf. 3515.6 - Criminal Background Checks for Contractors)

(cf. 3600 - Consultants)

(cf. 4112.4/4212.4/4312.4 - Health Examinations)

(cf. 4212 - Appointments and Conditions of Employment)

~~Regulation — PALOS VERDES PENINSULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT~~

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