Information Sheet – 04/21/2020 - Board of Trustees Meeting

TO: Board of Trustees Item: 8.2

FR: Celli Coeville

DATE: April 14, 2020

RE: Revised Board Policy and Administrative Regulation, BP/AR 3551, Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund, Consider for Adoption

Board Policy 3551, Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund has been updated to reflect NEW LAW (SB 265) which provides that students with unpaid meal fees must not be denied a reimbursable meal of their choice, eliminating the possibility that any student is required to receive an alternate meal. The revised policy also reflects a waiver granted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture extending the three-year Administrative Review cycle to a five-year cycle for school years 2017-18 through 2021-22.

The Administrative Regulation has been updated to reorganize the section on "Unpaid and Delinquent Meal Charges" to emphasize the prohibition against directing any action toward a student to collect unpaid school meal fees and reflect requirements, as amended by SB 265, to treat students with unpaid meal fees the same as other students.

I've highlighted the proposed changes and indicated the differences in red font.

Recommended Action: Approve Revised BP/AR 3551, Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund

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Note: The following policy may be revised to reflect district practice. Pursuant to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Memorandum SP 46-2016, districts participating in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Program (42 USC 1751-1769j, 1773) are mandated to adopt policy addressing meal charges, including delinquent meal charges; see the section "Meal Sales" below and the accompanying administrative regulation. Pursuant to 7 CFR 210.9, 210.14, and 220.7, districts participating in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast program must maintain a nonprofit school food service program. Revenues received through the program may be used for the operation or improvement of the food service program, but not to purchase land or buildings unless otherwise approved by USDA's Food and Nutrition Services, or to construct buildings. Authorized expenditures are specified in Education Code 38101 and defined in the California Department of Education's (CDE) California School Accounting Manual.

The Governing Board intends that school food services shall be a self-supporting, nonprofit program. To ensure program quality and increase cost effectiveness, the Superintendent or designee shall centralize and direct the purchasing of foods and supplies, the planning of menus, and the auditing of all food service accounts for the district.

(cf. 3100 - Budget)
(cf. 3300 - Expenditures and Purchases)
(cf. 3311 - Bids)
(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)
(cf. 3552 - Summer Meal Program)
(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)

Note: The following paragraph is for use by districts that participate in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Program and may be adapted for use by other districts. Pursuant to 42 USC 1776 and 7 CFR 210.30, USDA has established minimum professional standards for food service directors and granted CDE the authority to adopt more flexible standards for districts with average daily attendance of less than 2,500. See CDE's Nutrition Services Division Management Bulletin 10-2019 for information about state hiring standards.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all food service ~~personnel~~ director(s) possess the ~~required~~ qualifications ~~and receive ongoing professional development related to the effective management and implementation of the district's food service program in accordance with law~~ required by 7 CFR 210.30 and California Department of Education (CDE) standards.

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)
(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

Note: The following paragraph is for use by districts participating in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Program. Pursuant to 42 USC 1776, such districts must ensure that food service personnel and other appropriate personnel who conduct or oversee administrative procedures receive training on administrative practices (i.e., training in application, certification, verification, meal counting, and meal claiming procedures) at least once each year. In addition, all food service personnel are required to receive annual training that is designed to improve the accuracy of approvals for free and reduced-price meals and the identification of reimbursable meals at the point of service and to ensure program compliance and integrity. Food service personnel must obtain certification on an annual basis to demonstrate competence in the training. In addition, training is required to and includes modules on nutrition, health and food safety standards and methodologies, and any other appropriate topics as determined by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. CDE provides online training that meets these requirements; see CDE's web site.

At least once each year, food service administrators, other appropriate personnel who conduct or oversee administrative procedures, and other food service personnel shall receive training provided by the California Department of Education (CDE) or other accepted forms of training. (42 USC 1776)

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Meal Sales

Note: The following section may be revised by districts that have one or more high-poverty schools that operate under the federal universal meal service provision (42 USC 1759a), which provides breakfast and/or lunch free of charge to all students at the school. For further information, see BP 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals.

Meals may be sold to students, district employees, Board members, and employees or members of the fund or association maintaining the cafeteria. (Education Code 38082)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 38082, the Governing Board may adopt a resolution to authorize serving meals to additional persons other than those listed above. CDE's Nutrition Services Division Management Bulletin 00-111 states that the Board's policy or resolution must specify the means for serving those persons and indicates that using funds from the National School Lunch or Breakfast Program to serve any nonstudent would be contrary to program goals. The following optional paragraph is for districts that have adopted such a resolution and should be revised to reflect district practice.

In addition, meals may be sold to nonstudents, including parents/guardians, volunteers, students' siblings, or other individuals, who are on campus for a legitimate purpose. Any meals served to nonstudents shall not be subsidized by federal or state reimbursements, food service revenues, or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) foods.

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 38084, the district may determine meal prices consistent with the goal of paying the costs of maintaining the cafeterias (exclusive of the costs of housing and equipping cafeterias or other costs determined by Board resolution, which are paid from district funds other than the cafeteria fund, pursuant to Education Code 38100). Students who meet federal eligibility criteria for the reduced-price meal program cannot be charged more than the amounts listed in 42 USC 1758 and 1773; see AR 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals. For information about setting prices for full-price meals, see 42 USC 1760 and CDE's Nutrition Services Division Management Bulletin SNP 11-2019.

Meal prices, as recommended by the Superintendent or designee and approved by the Board, shall be based on the costs of providing food services and consistent with Education Code 38084 and 42 USC 1760. Students who are enrolled in the free or reduced-price meal program shall receive meals free of charge or at a reduced price in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.
(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

Note: 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. See the accompanying administrative regulation for additional language fulfilling this mandate.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish strategies and procedures for the collection of meal payments, including delinquent meal payments. Such procedures shall conform with BP/AR 3553, Free and Reduced Price Meals, 2 CFR 200.426 and any applicable CDE guidance. The Superintendent or designee shall clearly communicate these procedures to students and parents/guardians, and shall make this policy and the accompanying administrative regulation available to the public pursuant to Education Code 49557.5.

Note: Education Code 49557.5 requires any district that participates in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Program to ensure that students with whose parents/guardians have unpaid meal fees are not shamed or treated differently

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than other students. As amended by SB 265 (Ch. 785, Statutes of 2019), Education Code 49557.5 provides that students with unpaid meal fees must not be denied a reimbursable meal of their choice, eliminating the possibility that a school could provide an alternative meal to a student with unpaid meal fees. For further information about unpaid meal charges, see CDE's Nutrition Services Division Management Bulletin SNP-03-2017.

In addition, Education Code 49557 requires the Board to approve a plan that ensures students eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals are not treated differently from other students, including, but not limited to, assurance that eligible students will not be overtly identified by the use of special tokens, tickets, or any other means. For additional language addressing this requirement, see BP/AR 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a student whose parent/guardian has unpaid school meal fees or a student who is enrolled in the free or reduced-price meal program is not overtly identified by the use of special tokens, tickets, or other means and is not shamed, treated differently, or ~~served a meal that differs from the meal served to other students.~~ denied a meal of the student's choice. (Education Code 49557, 49557.5)

~~Students who are enrolled in the free or reduced-price meal program shall receive meals free of charge or at a reduced price in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. Such students shall not be overtly identified or treated differently from other students.~~

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)

Cafeteria Fund

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 38090, money received for the sale of food or for any services performed by the cafeterias may be paid into the county treasury to the credit of a "cafeteria fund" for the district.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a cafeteria fund independent of the district's general fund.

The wages, salaries, and benefits of food service employees shall be paid from the cafeteria fund. (Education Code 38103)

Note: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice. 2 CFR Part 200, Appendix VII and USDA guidance, 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. Also see the accompanying administrative regulation.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that state and federal funds provided through school meal programs are allocated only for purposes related to the operation or improvement of food services and reasonable and necessary indirect program costs as allowed by law.

(cf. 3230 - Federal Grant Funds)
(cf. 3400 - Management of District Assets/Accounts)
(cf. 3460 - Financial Reports and Accountability)

Contracts with Outside Services

Note: The following section is optional. Pursuant to Education Code 45103.5, the district is authorized to contract for

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consulting services related to food service management. 42 USC 1758, 7 CFR 210.16, and Education Code 45103.5 authorize a district, under specified conditions and with approval of CDE, to contract with a food service management company to manage its food service operation in one or more of its schools. See the accompanying administrative regulation for related requirements.

With Board approval, the district may enter into a contract for food service consulting services or management services in one or more district schools. (Education Code 45103.5; 42 USC 1758; 7 CFR 210.16)

(cf. 3312 - Contracts)
(cf. 3600 - Consultants)

Procurement of Foods, Equipment and Supplies

Note: The following two paragraphs reflect requirements for districts participating in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Program. Pursuant to 7 CFR 210.21, districts are required to comply with all requirements for purchasing commercial food products served in the school meal programs, including those outlined in the Buy American provision. USDA Memorandum SP 38-2017 clarifies that a district participating in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Program or any entity purchasing food on its behalf must, to the maximum extent practicable, purchase domestically grown and processed foods, as defined. According to the Memorandum, a domestic commodity or product is deemed to be "substantially using" domestic agricultural commodities when over 51 percent of the final processed product consists of agricultural commodities produced in the United States.

Limited exceptions to the Buy American requirement are described in USDA Memorandum SP 38-2017. If the district is using one of these exceptions, it must maintain documentation justifying the exception(s).

Pursuant to Education Code 49563, CDE is required to make resources, requirements, and best practices related to the Buy American provision available on its web site and to provide districts with related USDA guidance or regulations as updates are issued.

To the maximum extent practicable, foods purchased for use in school meals by the district or by any entity purchasing food on its behalf shall be domestic commodities or products. Domestic commodity or product means an agricultural commodity that is produced in the United States and a food product that is processed in the United States substantially using agricultural commodities that are produced in the United States. (42 USC 1760; 7 CFR 210.21)

A nondomestic food product may be purchased for use in the district's food service program only as a last resort when the product is not produced or manufactured in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities of a satisfactory quality, or when competitive bids reveal the costs of a United States product are significantly higher than the nondomestic product. In such cases, the Superintendent or designee shall retain documentation justifying the exception.

Furthermore, the district shall accept a bid or price for an agricultural product grown in California before accepting a bid or price for an agricultural product grown outside the state, if the quality of the

California-grown product is comparable and the bid or price does not exceed the lowest bid or price of a product produced outside the state. (Food and Agriculture Code 58595)

Note: Pursuant to Public Contract Code 20111, districts participating in a federally funded child nutrition program, such as the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Program, must comply with the federal procurement standards of 2 CFR

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200.318-200.326 in regard to bid solicitations and awards. Also see BP/AR 3230 - Federal Grant Funds. Districts that do not participate in such a program may revise the following paragraph.

Bid solicitations and awards for purchases of equipment, materials, or supplies in support of the district's child nutrition program, or for contracts awarded pursuant to Public Contract Code 2000, shall be consistent with the federal procurement standards in 2 CFR 200.318-200.326. Awards shall be let to the most responsive and responsible party. Price shall be the primary consideration, but not the only determining factor, in making such an award. (Public Contract Code 20111)

Program Monitoring and Evaluation

The Superintendent or designee shall present to the Board, at least annually, financial reports regarding revenues and expenditures related to the food service program.

Note: The following paragraph is for use by districts that have one or more schools participating in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Seamless Summer Feeding Option, and/or other federal meal program. The state monitoring process (the Administrative Review) includes a review of district compliance with requirements for federal meal programs, including a review of resource management in the food service program as provided in the following paragraph. Each district is reviewed at least once every three years except that, for school years from 2017-2019 through 2021-22, the three-year review cycle was extended to a five-year cycle pursuant to a waiver submitted by CDE's Nutrition Services Division to USDA. See CDE's nutrition services web site for a current list of documents that may be requested for the review.

During the Administrative Review, CDE will review district policies on unpaid meal charges, unpaid meal debt, the prohibition against shaming of students whose families cannot pay for a meal or who have unpaid meal debt, and processes for notifying parents/guardians of these policies at the beginning of the school year and when a student enrolls during the school year.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide all necessary documentation required for the Administrative Review conducted by ~~the~~ CDE to ensure compliance of the district's food service program with federal requirements. ~~related to maintenance of the nonprofit school food service account, meal charges, paid-lunch equity, revenue from non-program goods, indirect costs, and USDA foods.~~
(cf. 3555 - Nutrition Program Compliance)

Legal References:

EDUCATION CODE
38080-38086.1 Cafeteria, establishment and use
38090-38095 Cafeterias, funds and accounts
38100-38103 Cafeterias, allocation of charges
42646 Alternate payroll procedure
45103.5 Contracts for management consulting services; restrictions
49490-49493 School breakfast and lunch programs
49500-49505 School meals
49554 Contract for services
49550-49564.5 Meals for needy students, especially:
49550.5- Universal Breakfast
49580-49581 Food recovery program
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE CODE
58595 Preference for California-grown agricultural products
HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

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Legal References(continued):

113700-114437 California Retail Food Code
PUBLIC CONTRACT CODE
2000-2002 Responsive bidders
20111 Contracts
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
15550-15565 School lunch and breakfast programs
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
1751-1769j School lunch programs
1771-~~1791~~ 1793 Child nutrition, including:
1773 School breakfast program
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 2
200.56 Indirect costs, definition
~~200.318~~ 200.317-200.326 Procurement standards
200.400-200.475 Cost principles
200 Appendix VII Indirect cost proposals
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 7
210.1-~~210.31~~ 210.33 National School Lunch Program
220.1-~~220.21~~ 220.22 National School Breakfast Program
245.8 Nondiscrimination practices for students eligible for free and reduced price meals and free milk
250.1-250.70 USDA foods

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS
California School Accounting Manual
Food Distribution Program Administrative Manual
Paid Lunch Equity Requirement and Calculation Tool-Updated Guidance for School Year 2019-20, NSD Management Bulletin, SNP-11-2019, May 2019
Professional Standards in the SNP and New Hiring Flexibility, NSD Management Bulletin, SNP-10- 2019, April 2019
Storage and Inventory Management of U.S. Department of Agriculture Foods, NSD Management Bulletin, FDP-01-2018, January 2018
Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies, Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments, and Excess Student Account Balances, NSD Management Bulletin, SNP-03-2017, April 2017
~~*Clarification for the Use of Alternate Meals in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, Bad Debt Policies, and the Handling of Unpaid Meal Charges, NSD Management Bulletin, USDA-SNP-06-2015, May 2015*~~
Cafeteria Funds--Allowable Uses, NSD Management Bulletin, NSD-SNP-07-2013, May 2013
Paid Lunch Equity Requirement, NSD Management Bulletin USDA-SNP-16-2012, October 2012
Storage and Inventory Management of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Donated Foods, Management Bulletin USDA-FDP-02-2010, August 2010
Cafeteria Funds--Allowable Uses, NSD Management Bulletin, NSD-SNP-07-2013, May 2013
~~*Paid Lunch Equity Requirement, NSD Management Bulletin, USDA-SNP-16-2012, October 2012*~~
Adult and Sibling Meals in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, NSD Management Bulletin 00-111, July 2000
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PUBLICATIONS
~~*FAQs about*~~ *School Meals FAQs*
Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance and Q&A, SP 23-2017, March 2017
Indirect Costs: Guidance for State Agencies and School Food Authorities SP 60-2016, September 2016
Overcoming the Unpaid Meal Challenge: Proven Strategies from Our Nation's Schools, ~~September 2016~~ SP 29-2017, May 2017
Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies, SP 46-2016, July 2016
Compliance with and Enforcement of the Buy American Provision in the National School Lunch Program, ~~SP-24-2016, February 2016~~ SP 38-2017, June 2017

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Legal References(continued):

Discretionary Elimination of Reduced Price Charges in the School Meal Programs, SP 17-2014, January 2014
WEB SITES
California Department of Education, Nutrition Services Division: http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu
California School Nutrition Association: http://www.calsna.org
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service: http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd

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Payments for Meals

Note: State and federal law (Education Code 49550, 49557; 42 USC 1758, 1773; 7 CFR 245.8) 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. 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.

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. The following section includes recommendations of the California Department of Education's (CDE) Nutrition Services Division Management Bulletin and the USDA's "School Meals - FAQs" 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: 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.

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 "School Meals - FAQs," 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 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, 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.

In any school that uses a system of meal tickets or other similar medium of exchange rather than an electronic point-of-sale system, the Superintendent or designee shall develop a process for providing replacement tickets to any student who reports his/her tickets as lost or stolen. However, whenever any student reports an excessive number of lost or stolen tickets, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian and may provide an alternative method of tracking meal usage for that student.

In order to avoid potential misuse of a student's food service account by someone other than the student in whose name the account has been established, the Superintendent or designee shall verify a student's identity when setting up the account and when charging any meal to the account. The Superintendent or designee shall investigate any claim that a bill does not belong to a student or is inaccurate, ~~shall not require a student to pay a bill that appears to be the result of identity theft,~~ and shall open a new account as appropriate ~~with a new account number~~ for a student ~~who appears to be the subject of identity theft.~~ whose account appears to have been misused.

(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.

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

Students who have unpaid meal charges shall be served a meal of their choice throughout the school year regardless of the level of debt incurred by the household.

Such students shall not be overtly identified by the use of special tokens, tickets, or other means and shall not be shamed, treated differently, or denied a meal of their choice. (Education Code 49557, 49557.5)

Note: Education Code 49557.5 requires that parents/guardians be notified no later than 10 days after a student's school meal account has reached a negative balance. 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 parents/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: 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 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.

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 the 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 that complies with Health and Safety Code 113992, 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 shall be recorded as income and expenditures of the cafeteria fund.~~ (Education Code 38090, 38091)

(cf. 3100 - Budget)
(cf. 3300 - Expenditures and Purchases)

Note: Education Code 38101, 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.

Any charges to, or transfers from, a food service program shall be dated and accompanied by a written explanation of the ~~expenditure's~~ purpose of and basis for the expenditure. (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 CDE may approve a district's net cash resources in an amount greater than three months' average expenditures if the district has a spending plan for the excess funds in place with the Nutrition Services Division.

Net cash resources in the nonprofit school food service shall not exceed three months' average expenditures. (~~2~~ 7 CFR 220.14, 220.7)

U.S. Department of Agriculture Foods

Note: The following optional section is for use by districts that participate in the National School Lunch Program and receive foods from 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.

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

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)