

BP 3551 Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund

The Board of Trustees intends that school food services program shall be a self-supporting, non-profit 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)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all food service personnel 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.

(cf. [4231](#) - Staff Development)

(cf. [4331](#) - Staff Development)

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). (42 USC [1776](#))

Meal Sales

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](#))

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.

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. 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 Lunch Program)

(cf. [5145.3](#) - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish strategies and procedures for the collection of meal payments, including delinquent meal payments, and shall clearly communicate these procedures and related district policies to students and parents/guardians. The procedures adopted by the Superintendent or designee shall conform with 2 CFR 200.426 and any applicable CDE guidance, and shall not overtly identify students with unrecovered or delinquent debt or treat them differently than other students. **The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that a**

student whose parent/guardian has unpaid school meal fees is not overtly identified, shamed, treated differently, or served a meal that differs from the meal served to other students. (Education Code [49557.5](#))

Cafeteria Fund

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](#))

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

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

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 reasonable 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.

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.

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 nonprogram goods, indirect costs, and USDA foods.
(cf. [3555](#) - Nutrition Program Compliance)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

38080-38086 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

49500-49504 School meals

49550-49562 Meals for needy students

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

113700-114437 California Retail Food Code

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

15550-15565 School lunch and breakfast programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1751-1769j School lunch programs

1771-1791 Child nutrition, including:

1773 School breakfast program

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

200.56 Indirect costs, definition

200.400-200.475 Cost principles

200 Appendix VII Indirect cost proposals

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 7

210.1-210.31 National School Lunch Program

220.1-220.21 National School Breakfast Program

250.1-250.70 USDA foods

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

California School Accounting Manual

Food Distribution Program Administrative Manual

Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies, Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments, and Excess Student Account Balances, 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, Management Bulletin USDA-SNP-06-2015, May 2015
Cafeteria Funds--Allowable Uses, Management Bulletin NSD-SNP-07-2013, May 2013

Paid Lunch Equity Requirement, 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

Adult and Sibling Meals in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, Management Bulletin 00-111, July 2000

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PUBLICATIONS

FAQs About School Meals

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
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
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>

Policy TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: November 24, 1992 Larkspur, California

revised: April 16, 2019

AR 3551 Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund

Payments for Meals

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)

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)

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

~~Students and their parents/guardians shall be notified whenever their account has a zero low or negative balance. Whenever a student's account has an unpaid balance of \$50 or more, parents/guardians shall be notified in writing that full payment is due within seven school days from the date of the notice.~~

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](#))

In cases of repeated nonpayment by a student, the Superintendent or designee may contact parents/guardians to discuss the reasons for the nonpayment.

The Superintendent or designee may evaluate individual circumstances to determine if the student's parents/guardians need assistance completing an application for free or reduced-price meals or need referral to social services.

The Superintendent or designee may enter into a repayment plan with a student's parents/guardians 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](#))

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

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.

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 Board of Trustees shall be recorded as income and expenditures of the cafeteria fund. (Education Code [38090](#), [38091](#))

(cf. [3100](#) - Budget)

(cf. [3300](#) - Expenditures and Purchases)

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 2, 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 and basis. (Education Code [38101](#))

(cf. [3110](#) - Transfer of Funds)

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

(Education Code [38101](#))

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

U.S. Department of Agriculture Foods

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 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](#))

Regulation TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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