



April 1, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Approval of Revisions to  
Free and Reduced Price Food Services Policy

Recommendation: That the School Committee approve the revisions to the Free and Reduced Price Food Services policy as detailed in the attached document.

These policy revisions are being presented for its second reading.

Description: This document contains revisions to bring the policy into alignment with the school department's current Universal Free Meals Program

Supporting Data: Free and Reduced Price Food Services Policy.

Respectfully submitted,

David Murphy  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

**File: EFC - ~~FREE AND REDUCED PRICE FOOD SERVICES~~ UNIVERSAL FREE MEALS PROGRAM**

The Cambridge School Committee is committed to providing students with healthy, nutritious meals each day so they can focus on school work, while also maintaining the financial integrity of meal programs, and to ensure compliance with federal reporting requirements of the USDA Child Nutrition Program.

The Cambridge Public Schools will participate in the National School Lunch Program, the Massachusetts Universal Free Meals Program, and other food programs that may become available to assure that all students in the schools receive healthy, nutritious school meals.

In accordance with guidelines for participation in these programs, the Cambridge Public Schools will provide universal free meals to all students in the district.

Students seeking a la carte items will be charged accordingly for those additional items.

Each student in the Cambridge Public Schools is entitled to (1) free breakfast, (1) free lunch, and (1) free snack (where provided by the Cambridge Public Schools.)

As the Cambridge Public Schools participates through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), it serves breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications.

As required by state and federal regulations, the School Committee approves this policy statement pertaining to eligibility for universal free school meals for all students in the Cambridge Public Schools.

~~A program of free and reduced priced meals will be established through participation in the National School Lunch and School Breakfasts programs to provide meals for pupils unable to pay for them. All parents/guardians/caregivers, including those of students entering during the year, shall be informed by letter of the program.~~

In accordance with the guidelines for participation in these programs, and in accordance with the wishes of the School Committee, no child who a teacher believes is improperly nourished shall be denied a free lunch, or other food, ~~simply because proper application has not been received from their parents/guardians/caregivers.~~

There shall be no discrimination in the furnishing ~~of free or reduced price~~ meals because of race, religion, source of family income, or for any other reason.

The names of pupils determined to be eligible for ~~free or reduced price~~ meals will not be published, posted, or announced in any manner to other children and children receiving ~~free or reduced price~~ meals shall not be required, as a condition of receiving such meals, to use a separate lunchroom; go through a separate serving line; use a different medium of exchange; or eat a different meal than paying pupils.

~~The system in each of the various schools for collecting from paying pupils and accounting for free and/or reduced price meals shall be such that the anonymity of pupils receiving free or~~

~~reduced price meals will be protected in the lunchroom, classroom, or other environs of the attendance unit.~~

The administration shall establish rules, regulations and procedures which conform to state and federal requirements regarding participation in the universal free meal programs, ~~for free and reduced price meals~~. Such regulations shall be reported to the School Committee from time to time for its approval.

CROSS REF: EFE, Civil Rights Complaint Policy for Child Nutrition Programs

LEGAL REFS.: National School Lunch Act, as amended (42 USC 1751-1760);

Child Nutrition Act of 1966; P.L. 89-642, 80 Stat. 885, as amended;

USDA School Meal Program Guidelines May 2017;

M.G.L. 71:72; 15:1G; 69:1C;

Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023 7053-1909

*Last updated: Adopted: May 15, 2018*