

FREE OR REDUCED PRICE LUNCHES

National School Lunch Program regulations require that lunches be provided for pupils when family income is insufficient to provide nutritious food of proper quality.

Parents shall be informed of the district policy for free and reduced price lunches. A letter and application form will be distributed to all parents during the first few weeks of school. The letter will contain information on the eligibility standards, procedures for applying for free and reduced lunches, and how an appeal may be filed for an adjustment in the decision with respect to their application. This information and an application form will be provided whenever a new pupil is enrolled.

A public news release containing this same information will be made available to local news representatives early in the school year. Copies of this public release will be made available upon request to any interested party. Subsequent changes in the district eligibility standards during the school year, which are approved by the state agency, will also be publicly announced.

1. Free or reduced price lunches and/or supplementary milk will be provided for all pupils who qualify on the basis of financial need.
2. There shall be no discrimination in the furnishings of meals or supplementary milk (because of race, religion, source of income, etc.).
3. The anonymity of pupils receiving assistance under this policy shall be protected. The names of these pupils will be treated in a confidential manner. They will use the same tickets for milk and lunch and will obtain these items in the same manner and place as do all other children.
4. Requests for free lunches, reduced price lunches, and/or supplementary milk which have been denied may be appealed to the Board of Education.
5. Records of pupils receiving assistance will be kept in each school. A monthly report will be submitted to the district office where records for audit purposes will be maintained.
6. Eligibility for free and reduced lunches will be based on the following:
 - a. Emergency Situations
A child's statement of need is sufficient for providing assistance on a temporary basis. A family contact should be made immediately to determine extent and probable duration of need. In cases of family emergency such as sudden unemployment, illness, death, desertion, etc., assistance will be provided as needed.

BUSINESS AND NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

3542.31(b)

b. Objective Standards of Need

Eligibility for assistance, other than that for emergency situations, will be determined on the basis of income and family size as indicated on the scale provided by the district.

7. School authorities will notify a family if that family's financial situation has changed and the pupils are no longer eligible for free meals. If the family challenges the decision, a hearing with the Board of Education will be arranged.

Legal Reference: Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-215 Lunches, breakfasts and other feeding programs for public school children and employees
Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-215a Non-public school participation in feeding program
Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-215b Duties of state board of education re feeding programs. (c. The state board of education shall issue regulations....etc.)
Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-216 Payment of expenses

Litchfield Board of Education

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