

BOARD POLICY
Free and Reduced Nutrition
Programs

Descriptor Term: EEA
Date: XXXXXX XX, 2024

Free and Reduced Nutrition Programs

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally assisted meal program operating in public schools. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or no-cost lunches to children each school day. The Bibb County Board of Education ("Board") through the Superintendent or his or her designee approves the operation of the meal program to provide meals in accordance with USDA federal guidelines on an annual basis.

Each public school district and county superintendent of schools maintaining grades K12 is required to provide one nutritionally adequate meal to free or reduced-price eligible children during each school day even if the district does not participate in a state or federal meal program. Every district must formulate a plan to determine eligibility, make applications for free and reduced-price meals available at all times during the regular school day, and serve meals without discrimination or separation (EC Section 49557). Alternatively, the district may offer meals at no cost to all students, but still claim reimbursement by their eligibility category.

The School Nutrition Department has been approved to operate under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). The CEP allows all enrolled students in eligible school districts to be served a nutritious breakfast and lunch at no cost to them.

Documentation data used to make the determinations and certification for the CEP as required by 7 C.F.R. § 245.9(h)(3) will be kept on file for the entire period of the CEP term and for three years after submission of the final claim for reimbursement for the last fiscal year of CEP and longer if a resolution of an issue is required.

The Bibb County School District ("District") will communicate that school meals will be available at no cost to all enrolled students under CEP to the public and parents by posting this information on the District's website and by a Public Announcement pursuant to 7 CFR 245.5. Notification will also be included in all back-to-school packets and student handbooks.

The District will notify the Georgia Department of Education of any planned changes to the District's election to participate in CEP or plans to terminate participation in CEP.

The District will comply with all regulations, policies and procedures in compliance with guidance for CEP and National School Lunch Program.