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EXPLANATION: FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE FOOD SERVICE

This policy has been modified to include the full range of free and reduced-price food services available to students. While many people still refer to the district's children's nutrition program as the "free lunch program," this is not an accurate description of the breadth of the program offered by most districts.

MSBA has strengthened the language pertaining to the confidentiality of information relating to students eligible for free and reduced-price meals, snacks and milk. Federal law on the release of information about student eligibility for free and reduced-price meals is very strict—far more restrictive than the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)—and many districts with the best of intentions violate these restrictions. For example, some school districts will provide this information to local charities or to parent organizations in an effort to help the child obtain services. This is not permitted without written parental consent. For more information, see the article "Sharing Information under the National School Lunch Act" on the MSBA website:

<http://www.msbanet.org/law-policy-a-labor-relations/legal-guidance/legal-articles-and-guides.html>.

The language in the last paragraph of this policy was included at the recommendation of the Homeland Security Safe Schools Workgroup, which addresses pandemic flu and other potential emergency situations facing school districts. The workgroup recognized that school may be the only source of nutrition for some students and that districts should develop alternative plans for continuing food service when circumstances, such as an emergency or health crisis, close the schools for extended periods. This is not required by law.

<i>MSBA recommends that copies of this document be routed to the following areas because the content is of particular importance to them. The titles on this list may not match those used by the district. Please forward copies to the district equivalent of the title indicated.</i>					
	Board Secretary		Business Office		Coaches/Sponsors
	Facility Maintenance	X	Food Service		Gifted
	Human Resources		Principals		Library/Media Center
	Health Services	X	Counselor		Special Education
	Transportation		Public Info/Communications		Technology

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FREE AND REDUCED-COST PRICE FOOD SERVICES

School officials will determine student eligibility based on guidelines established under the national school lunch program and for free and reduced-price meals, snacks and milk in accordance with state and federal law. Eligible students will be provided nutritionally acceptable meals, snacks and milk either free or at a reduced cost price if state and federal resources for school food programs are available. The superintendent or designee may establish rules and procedures as needed to accomplish this goal.

The criteria for determining a student's need and the procedures for securing free and reduced-cost lunches price meals, snacks and milk for the student will be outlined and published publicized each year by the district in accordance with law. The criteria and procedures are established at the state and federal level.

The district will establish a school breakfast program or will adopt a resolution requesting a waiver excusing the district from this requirement, in accordance with law. The resolution, if adopted, will be filed with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The students who participate in the free or reduced-cost price meals, snacks or milk program will not be overtly identified, distinguished or served differently than other students and will have the same choice of meals, snacks or milk as other students. The district may charge all students for à la carte menu items. The names of students receiving free and reduced-cost meals will be kept confidential and will only be released to district personnel or persons administering the district's program on a need-to-know basis, in accordance with law. No person other than employees and contracted food service personnel responsible for the administration of the free and reduced-price meals program will have access to information:

1. Obtained from an application for free or reduced-price meals.
2. Received for the purpose of direct verification.
3. Pertaining to eligibility status for free or reduced-price meals, snacks or milk, unless specifically authorized by law.

The superintendent or designee will investigate whether the district can continue to provide meals to students receiving free and reduced-price meals when schools are closed for an extended period due to an emergency or health crisis. The superintendent or designee will determine whether such a program is practically and financially feasible by consulting with:

1. Food service personnel regarding purchasing and supplies.
2. Facilities staff to determine storage options.

3. Local emergency planners to develop a preparation and delivery system.

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Note: The reader is encouraged to check the index located at the beginning of this section for other pertinent policies and to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information.

Adopted: FIELD(AdoptDate)

Revised:

Cross Refs: AC, Prohibition against Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation

ADF, District Wellness Program

JHA, Student Insurance

JHCF, Student Allergy Prevention and Response

JO, Student Records

KB, Public Information Program

Legal Refs: §§ 167.201, .211, RSMo.

42 U.S.C. § 1751 ~~et seq.~~ 1760

National School Lunch Program, 7 C.F.R. Part 210-250

Special Milk Program, 7 C.F.R. Part 215

School Breakfast Program, 7 C.F.R. Part 220

Summer Food Service Program, 7 C.F.R. Part 225

Child Nutrition Programs, 7 C.F.R. Parts 240, 245, 247, 250

5 C.S.R. 30-680.010, .020, .030, .050, .060, .070

FIELD(DistrictLocationLine)