

"under no circumstances shall those unable to pay be charged for their lunches"

Feed kids - it's the law!

Public Law 91-248 of 1970 made major reforms in the National School Lunch Program and established the right to free or reduced price meals for every child whose family's income is below the poverty level.

YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT

if it participates in the National School Lunch program or receives donated commodities from the U.S. Department of Agriculture

MUST - SERVE free or reduced price meals to all needy children

MUST - GIVE priority to feeding the neediest children

MUST - MEET the minimum national standard for determining need as set by the Secretary of Agriculture's annual Income Poverty Guideline. For 1970-71 a family of six with income of \$4820 must receive free or reduced price meals for all the children

MUST - ESTABLISH a maximum price of 20¢ for a reduced price lunch and must allow children to pay less if they can't afford 20¢

MUST - PROVIDE the same benefits to all children in a family

MUST - PUBLISH an approved free and reduced price policy which is in effect uniformly throughout the district, and which must include:

*the name of the official authorized to determine eligibility

*specific criteria for eligibility for completely free meals and for reduced price meals. Any criteria in addition to the Income Poverty Guideline must relate to needy pupils who do not qualify under the minimum national standard

*clear and simple procedures for applying. A declaration of income by any adult in the family is sufficient.

*information about the family's right to appeal the denial of free or reduced price meals, to receive a prompt and fair hearing, to be assisted by a lawyer or friend and to receive a written decision. Children receiving free or reduced price meals whose eligibility is challenged must continue to be fed until the matter has been settled.

*assurance that needy children will not suffer discrimination. The needy must not be required to work for their meals, to use separate facilities or to eat a different lunch from paying children.

*description of methods used to collect fees from paying children so that needy pupils will not be identified.

MUST - DISTRIBUTE to all parents the above information and application forms.

MAY - DETERMINE that certain children are automatically eligible, feed them and notify parents that applications are unnecessary

To enable school districts to meet their obligations CONGRESS AUTHORIZED . . .

- \$38 million for food service equipment for poor schools for 1970-71
- "such sums as may be necessary" for Special Assistance Funds, earmarked for meals for poor children, with allocations to states on the basis of their needy children, ages 3-17.
- increased reimbursements to schools for free and reduced price meals. Schools may receive the full cost -up to 60¢ per meal- for feeding the needy.
- \$25 million for School Breakfast Programs for 1970-71.

YOUR STATE

MUST – STOP Federal funds to schools violating the law

MUST – ALLOCATE Federal funds to give priority to the neediest children

MUST – SUBMIT to USDA every March and October the number of children needing free and reduced price meals and report monthly on how many are fed

MUST – FILE every January an annual State Plan of Child Nutrition Operations, which

*describes unmet needs in the State

*shows how State and Federal funds are used to meet these needs

*details an action program to assure meals to all needy children, to extend food service to all schools in the State, and to expand School Breakfast and Special Food Service Programs For Children

*reports accomplishments

MUST – APPROVE AND MONITOR the free and reduced price policies of local school districts and evaluate performance

MAY – ESTABLISH a lower maximum price (below 20¢) for reduced price meals and a higher income poverty guideline for your State

MAY – USE 1% of its budget for projects designed to improve feeding programs

MAY – REQUIRE districts to develop local Child Nutrition Plans

SPECIAL FOOD SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Day care centers and other institutions serving needy non-school children in year-around and summer programs are eligible for funds, equipment and donated commodities. Contact your state educational agency.

YOUR JOB

NEEDY CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO EAT! SAFEGUARD THIS RIGHT!

Get your school board's free and reduced price policy

Inform parents of their children's rights

Find out whether all needy children are being fed

Help parents request hearings when lunches are denied

Contact your state educational agency for its March and

October reports on unmet needs and for your State Plan

Encourage citizens groups to recommend improvement in the Plan

Promote generous State funding of child feeding programs

File complaints: Food and Nutrition Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

WE WANT TO HELP!

Send us: Your local free and reduced price policy
Your State Plan of Child Nutrition Operations
Reports on developments in your community
Copies of complaints filed with USDA
Your Ideas for feeding more children

WE'LL Help you evaluate your local and state plans
Follow up your complaints to USDA
Share your ideas with other concerned citizens

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