

Multnomah Education Service District

Code: **EFAA-AR**
Adopted: 11/28/11
Amended:
Reviewed:

Reimbursable School Meals and Milk Programs **(National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program)**

MESD nutrition and food services will be operated in accordance with the following requirements:

Meal Pricing Procedures

1. The MESD does not operate the Special Milk Program (SMP) at schools where students do not have access to program meals. If the MESD elects to operate the SMP in the future, we will choose one of the following options:
 - a. Nonpricing (serve SMP milk at no charge to all students);
 - b. Pricing programs without a free option (charge all students for SMP milk); or pricing programs with a free option (distribute confidential applications for free milk and charge only those students for SMP milk who do not qualify for free milk based on the household's application or direct certification from Adult and Family Services (AFS)).
2. Reimbursable meals and snacks will be priced as a unit.
3. Reimbursable meals, milk and snacks will be served free or at a reduced price to all children who are determined to be eligible for free or reduced price meals and free milk.
4. Annually, the MESD will establish prices for reimbursable student meals, snacks and milk. The price charged to students who do not qualify for free or reduced price meals or free milk will be established annually by the MESD in compliance with state and federal laws.¹
5. The price charged to students who qualify for reduced price meals will be established annually by the MESD in compliance with state and federal laws.¹

Application Procedures

1. Households receiving food stamps or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits, as identified by Oregon Department of Education (ODE), will be automatically eligible for free meals, snacks and milk for the students listed on the official document.
2. Households that submit a confidential application will be notified of their student's eligibility for free or reduced price meals and free milk. Households that are denied free or reduced price benefits

¹The new requirement under Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, 42 U.S.C. 1751 §§ 203 establishes new criteria for equity in school lunch pricing.

will be notified in writing using the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) template letter distributed to the ESD annually.

3. On a case-by-case basis, when a student is known to be eligible for free or reduced price meal or free milk benefits and the household fails to submit a confidential application, the superintendent or designee may complete an application for the student documenting how he/she knows the household income qualifies the student for free or reduced price meal benefits. Parents of a student approved for free or reduced price benefits, when application is made for the student by an ESD official, will be notified of the decision and given the opportunity to decline benefits.
4. Students who do not qualify for free or reduced price meals or free milk are eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) and will be charged “paid” meal, snack and milk prices set by the MESD. “Paid” category students will be treated equally to students receiving free or reduced price benefits in every aspect of the MESD’s NSLP and SBP.
5. The MESD has established a fair hearing process under which a household can appeal a decision with respect to the household’s application for benefits or any subsequent reduction or termination of benefits.
6. In the event of major employers contemplating large layoffs in the attendance area of the MESD, the MESD will provide confidential applications and eligibility criteria for free and reduced price meals and free milk to the employer for distribution to affected employees.

Financial Management of the Nonprofit School Food Service

1. The MESD will maintain a nonprofit nutrition and food service operation.
2. Revenues earned by the nutrition and food services will be used only for the operation or improvement of NSLP and SBP.
3. Lunch and breakfast meals served to teachers, administrators, custodians and other adults not directly involved with the operation of the MESD’s nutrition and food services will be priced to cover all direct and indirect cost of preparing and serving the meal.²
4. MESD nutrition and food services revenues will not be used to purchase land or buildings.
5. The MESD will limit its nutrition and food services net cash resources to an amount that does not exceed three months average expenditures.
6. The MESD will maintain effective control and accountability for, and adequately safeguard, all nutrition and food services’ cash, real and personal property, equipment and other assets, and ensure they are used solely for nutrition and food services purposes.

²For meals with portion sizes equivalent to student meals, the adult meal price will be no less than the amount of reimbursement for a free-eligible meal, plus the value of commodity foods used in the meal preparation.

7. The MESD will meet the requirements for allowable NSLP and SBP costs as described in Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circular A-87.
8. In purchasing nutrition and food services goods or services, the MESD will not accept proposals or bids from any party that has developed or drafted specifications, requirements, statements of work, invitations for bids, requests for proposals, contract terms and conditions or other documents for proposals used to conduct the procurement.
9. All procurement transactions for nutrition and food services goods and services will be conducted according to state, federal and MESD procurement standards using the applicable cost thresholds.
10. In the operation of its nutrition and food services program, the MESD will purchase food products that are produced in the United States, whenever possible.

Civil Rights and Confidentiality Procedures

1. The MESD will not discriminate against any student because of his/her eligibility for free or reduced price meals.
2. The MESD will not discriminate against any student or any nutrition and food services employee because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability.
3. The MESD will assure that all students and nutrition and food services employees are not subject to different treatment, disparate impact or a hostile environment.
4. Established MESD procedures will be followed for receiving and processing civil rights complaints related to applications for NSLP and SBP benefits and services, and employment practices with regard to the operation of its NSLP and SBP. The MESD will forward any civil rights complaint regarding the MESD's nutrition and food services to ODE's civil rights coordinator within three days of receiving the complaint.
5. The MESD will make written or oral translations of all nutrition and food services materials available to all households who do not read or speak English.
6. The MESD will maintain strict confidentiality of all information on the confidential application for free and reduced price meals and free milk, including students' eligibility for free or reduced price meals and all household information. The MESD's NSLP and SBP operators are not required to release any information from a student's confidential application for free or reduced price meals or free milk. No information may be released from a student's confidential application for free or reduced price meals or free milk without first obtaining written permission from the student's parent or legal guardian/adult household member signing the application, except as follows:
 - a. An individual student's name and eligibility status may be released without written consent only to persons who operate or administer federal education programs; persons who operate or administer state education or state health programs at the state level; persons evaluating state, education assessment; or persons who operate or administer any other NSLP, SBP, SMP,

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) or the Food Stamp Program.

- b. Any other confidential information contained in the confidential application for free and reduced price meals [or free milk] (family income, address, etc.) may be released without written consent only to persons who operate or administer NSLP, SBP, SMP, CACFP, SFSP and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); the Comptroller General of the United States for audit purposes; and federal, state or local law enforcement officials investigating alleged violation of any of the programs listed above.

Nutrition and Menu Planning³

1. Meals and snacks served for reimbursement will meet the recommendations of the most current Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
2. Meals and snacks served for reimbursement will meet at least the minimum NSLP and SBP requirements for food item and quantities⁴ and menu items and nutrient standards⁵.
3. Meals served for reimbursement will:
 - a. Meet at least the minimum nutrient standards set for calories, protein, calcium, iron, vitamin A and vitamin C;
 - b. Meet the maximum standards set for total fat and saturated fat; and
 - c. Offer less sodium and cholesterol and increase the level of dietary fiber over time. The MESD will use a USDA-approved menu planning approach to plan meals and snacks claimed for reimbursement.
4. The menu planning approach selected by the MESD to be used:

Nutrient Standard Menu Planning

Pathways
Arata Creek
Alpha

Nutritional Food Based

Helensview
Outdoor School.

³Menus may be planned using one of the approved United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) menu planning approaches (e.g., Traditional Food-Based Menu Planning, Enhanced Food-Based Menu Planning, Nutrient Standard Menu Planning and Assisted Nutrient Standard Menu Planning). Additional details are available at the Oregon Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs.

⁴This option is used for MESDs using traditional or enhanced food-based menu planning.

⁵This option is used by MESDs using nutrient standard menu planning.

5. The MESD will use the offer versus serve option when serving NSLP lunches to senior high school students. High school students must take at least three of five different food items³ or an entree and one other menu item⁴ offered in program lunches.
6. The MESD will use the offer versus serve option when serving program breakfasts to senior high school students. High school students must take at least three of four food items³ or two of three menu items⁴ offered in program breakfasts.
7. The MESD will use the offer versus serve option when serving program lunches to students below senior high school grades. Students below high school grades will be required to take three of the five food items³ or at least an entree and one other menu item⁴ offered in program lunches.
8. The MESD will use the offer versus serve option when serving program breakfasts to students below senior high school grades. Students below high school grades will be required to take three of the four food items³ or at least two of three menu items⁴ offered in program breakfasts.

Use and Control of Commodity Foods

1. The MESD will accept and use commodity foods in as large a quantity as may be efficiently utilized in the reimbursable lunch and breakfast program.
2. The MESD will maintain necessary safeguards to prevent theft or spoilage of commodity foods.
3. The value of commodity foods used for any food production other than NSLP, SBP or snacks shall be replaced in the food service inventory.

Accuracy of Reimbursement Claims

1. The MESD will claim reimbursement only for reimbursable meals, snacks or milk served to eligible children.
2. All meals, snacks and milk claimed for reimbursement will be counted at each dining site at a “point of service” where it can be accurately determined that the meal, snack and milk meets NSLP and SBP requirements for reimbursement.
3. The person responsible for determining reimbursability of meals and snacks will be trained to recognize a reimbursable meal and snack under the menu planning approach used.
4. The MESD official signing the claim for reimbursement will review and analyze monthly meal, snack and milk counts to ensure accuracy of the claim, before submitting the claim to ODE.
5. Annually, by November 15, the MESD will verify a random sample of applications according to NSLP verification requirements. Instructions for completing the verification process will be sent by ODE to the MESD in October each year.

Food Safety and Sanitation Inspections

1. The MESD will maintain necessary facilities for storing, preparing and serving food and milk.
2. Biannually, the MESD will schedule food safety inspections with the county Environmental Health Department or Oregon Department of Human Resources for each school or dining site under its jurisdiction.
3. The MESD will maintain health standards in compliance with all applicable state food safety regulations at each school or dining site under its jurisdiction.

General USDA NSLP/SBP/SMP Requirements

1. The MESD will ensure that no student is denied a meal as a disciplinary action.
2. Breakfast will be served in the morning hours, at or near the beginning of the student's school day.
3. Lunch will be served between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
4. The MESD will provide substitute foods for students who are determined by a licensed physician to be legally disabled and whose disability restricts their diet. Substitutions will be provided only when a medical statement from the licensed physician is on file at the MESD. The medical statement must state the nature of the child's disability and how the disability affects the child's nutrition needs, and it must provide a medical prescription for substitute foods or texture modification. The MESD will not charge more than the price of the school meal, as determined by the child's eligibility status, for substitute meals or foods.
5. The MESD will control the sale of the following foods of minimal nutritional value (FMNV): carbonated beverages, water ices, chewing gum, hard candy, jelly and gum candies, marshmallow candy, fondant (candy corn-type), licorice, cotton candy, and candy-coated popcorn.
6. The MESD will ensure that soda pop vending machines and sales of other FMNV will not be allowed in any school's dining site(s) during the time(s) when NSLP lunch meals or SBP breakfast meals are served or eaten. Dining sites are cafeterias and any other place where NSLP lunch meals or SBP breakfast meals are served or eaten.
7. The MESD will ensure that potable drinking water will be available to students, free of charge for consumption in the place where meals are served during meal service.⁶
8. The MESD will notify all households of its meal charge requirements early in the school year.⁷

⁶New requirement under Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, 42 U.S.C. 1751 §§ 203.

⁷[Language is suggested only.] Revise to reflect MESD's meal charging requirements and ensure information is communicated to students and parents.

9. The MESD will not use nutrition and food services funds to purchase FMNV for sale unless the proceeds from the sale of those foods is deposited into the Nutrition and Food Services account in an amount sufficient to cover all direct and indirect costs relating to the purchase and service of the foods.
10. Soda pop and any other FMNV will not be offered “at no additional cost” with NSLP lunch meals or SBP breakfast meals.

Record Keeping

1. All currently approved and denied confidential applications for free and reduced price meals[, free milk] and all current direct certification documents will be maintained for three years after the current school year. Records will be maintained longer in the event of unresolved audit(s) until the audit(s) has been completed.
2. All currently approved and denied confidential applications for free and reduced price meals, free milk and all current direct certification documents will be readily retrievable and made available to state or federal reviewers upon request.
3. The MESD will maintain financial records that account for all revenues and expenditures of the nonprofit nutrition and food services for a period of three years after the school year to which they pertain.