

Reimbursable Meals and Milk Programs

(National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program and other meal programs)

The district's nutrition and food services will be operated in accordance with the following requirements:

Meal Pricing Procedures

1. The district may operate the Special Milk Program (SMP) at schools where students do not have access to program meals. Under SMP, the district 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
 - c. 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 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP)).
2. Reimbursable meals will be priced as a unit.
3. Reimbursable meals and milk will be served free or at a reduced price to all children who are determined by the district to be eligible for free or reduced-price meals and free milk.
4. Annually, the district will establish prices for reimbursable student meals 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 district in compliance with state and federal laws.
5. The price charged to students who qualify for reduced-price meals will be established annually by the district in compliance with state and federal laws.
6. The district will implement claiming alternative Community Eligibility at the following schools under its jurisdiction: Vale Elementary School, Willowcreek Elementary School, Vale Middle School, Vale High School and Oregon Trail Learning Academy.

Application Procedures

1. Households receiving SNAP or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits as identified by Oregon Department of Education (ODE), will be automatically eligible for free meals and milk, for the students listed on the official document. Districts must access this document at least three times per year.
2. Students receiving support through the migrant education program, Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, federal Head Start and state-funded prekindergarten programs, with income eligibility criteria identical or more stringent than federal Head Start, or are in state or court placement foster care, will be automatically eligible for free meals and milk, for the students listed on the official documents.

3. Households that submit a confidential application will be notified of their student's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals or free milk. Households that are denied free or reduced-price benefits will be notified in writing using the ODE template letter distributed to the district annually.
4. 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 a school official, will be notified of the decision and given the opportunity to decline benefits.
5. Students who do not qualify for free or reduced-price meals or free milk are eligible to participate in the SMP, National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) and will be charged "paid" prices set by the district. "Paid" category students will be treated equally to students receiving free or reduced-price benefits in every aspect of the district's NSLP, SMP and SBP.
6. The district 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.
7. In the event of major employers contemplating large layoffs in the attendance area of the district, the district will provide confidential applications and eligibility criteria for free and reduced-price meals or free milk to the employer for distribution to affected employees.

Financial Management of the Nonprofit School Food Service

1. The district will maintain a nonprofit school nutrition and food service operation.
2. Revenues earned by the school nutrition and food services will be used only for the operation or improvement of NSLP, SMP and SBP.
3. Lunch and breakfast meals served to teachers, administrators, custodians and other adults not directly involved with the operation of the district's nutrition and food services will be priced to cover all direct and indirect cost of preparing and serving the meal.¹
4. District nutrition and food services revenues will not be used to purchase land or buildings.
5. The district will limit its nutrition and food services net cash resources to an amount that does not exceed three months average expenditures.
6. The district 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.
7. The district will meet the requirements for allowable NSLP, SMP and SBP costs as described in 2 C.F.R. 200.

¹For 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.

8. In purchasing nutrition and food services goods or services, the district 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 district procurement standards using the applicable cost thresholds.
10. In the operation of its nutrition and food services program, the district will purchase food products where at least 50 percent of the ingredients are produced or processed in the United States, whenever possible.

Civil Rights and Confidentiality Procedures

1. The district will not discriminate against any student because of his/her eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.
2. The district will not discriminate against any student or any nutrition and food services employee because of race, color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, parental status, religion, age or disability.
3. The district 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 district procedures will be followed for receiving and processing civil rights complaints related to applications for NSLP, SMP and SBP benefits and services, and employment practices with regard to the operation of its NSLP, SMP and SBP. The district will forward any civil rights complaint regarding the district's nutrition and food services to ODE's director of Child Nutrition Programs within three days of receiving the complaint.
5. The district 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 district will maintain strict confidentiality of all information obtained through a confidential application for free and reduced-price meals or free milk or direct certification, including students' eligibility for free or reduced-price meals and all household information. The district's NSLP, SMP 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 eligibility information 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, CACFP, SFSP or SNAP;
 - b. Any other confidential information contained in the confidential application for free and reduced-price meals or free milk (e.g., family income, address, etc.) may be released without written consent only to persons who operate or administer the 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 Planning

1. Meals and afterschool snacks served for reimbursement will meet the nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Oregon Smart Snacks Standards.
2. Meals served for reimbursement will meet at least the minimum NSLP and SBP requirements for food items and quantities.
3. Meals served for reimbursement will:
 - a. Meet all calorie range requirements by grade level;
 - b. Meet the maximum standards set for saturated fat;
 - c. Meet the maximum standards set for sodium by grade level; and
 - d. Meet the requirement for zero grams of trans fats.
4. The district 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 items including one-half cup of fruit or vegetable offered in program lunches.
5. The district 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 items, including one-half cup of fruit or vegetable offered in program breakfasts.
6. The district 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 items, including one-half cup of fruit or vegetable offered in program lunches.
7. The district 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 items, including one-half cup of fruit offered in program breakfasts.
8. A copy of the Board minutes adopting the offer versus serve policy for students below high school grades for program lunches and/or for all students in the district for program breakfasts, as applicable, will be made available upon request.

Use and Control of Commodity Foods

1. The district will accept and use commodity foods in as large a quantity as may be efficiently utilized in the NSLP, SMP and SBP.
2. The district 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, SFSP or afterschool snacks shall be replaced in the food service inventory.

Accuracy of Reimbursement Claims

1. The district will claim reimbursement only for reimbursable meals and milk served to eligible children.
2. All meals 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 and milk meets NSLP, SMP and SBP requirements for reimbursement.
3. The person responsible for determining reimbursability of meals will be trained to recognize a reimbursable meal.
4. The district official signing the claim for reimbursement will review and analyze monthly meal and milk counts to ensure accuracy of the claim, before submitting the claim to ODE.
5. Annually, by November 15, the district 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 district in October each year.

Food Safety and Sanitation Inspections

1. The district will maintain necessary facilities for storing, preparing and serving food and milk.
2. Semiannually, the district will schedule food safety inspections with the county Environmental Health Department for each school or dining site under its jurisdiction.
3. The district 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 district 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 district will provide substitute foods for students with a disability² that restricts their diet when supported by a written statement from a state-licensed health care professional, who is authorized to write medical prescriptions. Substitutions will be provided only when a medical statement from the licensed health care professional is on file at the school. The medical statement must state the nature of the child’s impairment so its effect on the student’s diet is understood, and what must be done to accommodate the impairment. The district will not charge more than the price of the school meal, as determined by the child’s eligibility status, for meals with the accommodation.
5. The district will control the sale of competitive foods.

²To comply with Section 504 as it relates to a student’s severe food allergy, such as milk, gluten, nut or soy, and including but not limited to diabetes, colitis, etc.

6. The district 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.
7. The district will notify all households of its meal charge requirements early in the school year. The district's meal charging requirements are as follows:

A charge account for students paying full or reduced price for meals may be established with the district. Students may charge no more than 10 meals. Any student failing to keep his/her account current as required by the district shall not be allowed to charge the price of further meals until the account has been paid in full but will be allowed to purchase a meal if the student pays for the meal when it is received. At least one written warning shall be provided to a student and his/her parent prior to denying meals for exceeding the district's charge limit. Payment is due to the school office on the 10th of each month. Students or parents of students may prepay meal costs.

8. The sale of foods in competition with the district's lunch (NSLP) or breakfast (SBP) programs will be allowed in dining sites during lunch and breakfast periods with Board approval only when all income from the food sales accrues to the benefit of the district's nutrition and food services or accrues to a school or student organization approved by the Board. A copy of the Board minutes approving and defining competitive food sales will be made available upon request.
9. Students will not be charged for second servings of meals or portions of meals served.

Record Keeping

The following documents will be maintained by the district for three years after the current school year or longer, in the event of an unresolved audit(s), until the audit(s) has been completed:

1. All currently approved and denied confidential applications for free and reduced-price meals, free milk, all current direct certification documents, eligibility verification documents and school membership or enrollment lists;
2. Financial records that account for all revenues and expenditures of the district's nonprofit nutrition and food services programs, including procurement documents;
3. Records (i.e., recipes, ingredient lists and nutrition fact labels or product specifications) that document the compliance with nutrition standards for all program and competitive foods available for sale to students at a school campus;
4. Documents of participation data (i.e. meal counts) from each school in the district to support claims for reimbursement;
5. Production and menu records;
6. Records to document compliance with Paid Lunch Equity;
7. Records to document compliance with Revenue from Nonprogram Foods; and
8. Internal program monitoring documents for NSLP, SMP and SBP.