

**Free or Reduced Price Meals**

Participation in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) are herewith authorized. Authorization is granted to the Superintendent to act on behalf of the Bethany Board of Education for purposes of participating in the NSLP and SBP.

Free or reduced-price meals will be served to children from families whose income falls within the current criteria established by the Secretary of Agriculture under the Federal Lunch and Breakfast Programs. An application for free or reduced-price meals will be sent home to every family at the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment. The application will be made available on the Bethany Public School District's (District) website.

The District shall establish an appeals process under which a parent/guardian may appeal a decision regarding the initial application for benefits, or any subsequent reduction or termination of benefits.

The District shall not physically segregate or discriminate against any child because of the inability to pay for a meal. The names of children eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals shall not be published, posted, or announced in any manner; and there shall be no overt identification of any such children by use of special tokens or tickets, or by any other means.

The District shall ensure that, in the operation of the free and reduced-price meals program, no student shall be discriminated against because of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, gender identity or expression, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or disability, or any other basis prohibited by law, in its implementation of such a program.

The District's NSLP and SBP shall operate to meet dietary specifications in accordance with the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 and applicable state laws and regulations.

Legal References:      Connecticut General Statutes § 10-215  
                                 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-216  
                                 Title VII, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 2000e, et seq. as amended by Title IX, Equal Employment Opportunity Act.  
                                 United States Department of Agriculture 7 C.F.R. 15  
                                 42 U.S.C. §. 1758, 7 CFR Part 145, Sec. 245.5, 245.6, 245.7, 210.9, 210.20  
                                 U.S.D.A., Eligibility Guidance for School Meals Manual  
                                 U.S.D.A., FNS Instruction 765-7 Rev. 2  
                                 Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, 42 U.S.C. 1751 §§ 203, 205  
                                 7 C.F.R. Part 15b (2001)

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