

FREE AND REDUCED - PRICE FOOD SERVICES

A program of free and reduced-price meals shall be established through Board approval and participation in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs and other federal programs to provide meals for students who qualify. All parents and guardians, including those of students entering during the year, shall be informed of the program by letter in a language the parent or guardian understand. Printed meal applications or instructions on how to receive a printed application will be provided for every new enrollee at enrollment. Assistance with understanding the application will be provided as needed. The school may complete and file an application for a student who is eligible for free and reduced-price meals if aware that the student is eligible and none is on file, per Title 7. Applications shall be reviewed and maintained by the supervisor of food services.

The income poverty guidelines prescribed on July 1 of each year must be used for the ensuing fiscal year. Each state agency has special responsibilities for informing schools and service institutions of their obligation to provide free or reduced-price lunches and breakfasts to students who qualify. Furthermore, the Board will submit to the Food and Nutrition Office a policy and criteria that will be followed in determining the eligibility of all students for free or reduced-price meals.

The District will serve meals free or at a reduced price to any student who is a member of a family that has an annual income not above the applicable income level for the student's family size.

The adopted income guidelines must meet the income poverty guidelines prescribed by the federal Office of Management and Budget.

Non-Discrimination or Stigmatization

Students who cannot pay or who have a meal debt:

- Shall not be publicly identified by any means so as to separate or allow a recognition of difference from other students using food services.
- Shall not be required to do chores or other work to pay for meals.
- May be required to carry a letter addressed to their parent or guardian regarding food services but direct communications to the student about meal debt is prohibited.

Adopted: date of manual adoption

GADSDEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

07/20/12