



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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018-003: Nutrition Program Statement

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SJCOE Announces its Breakfast and Lunch Program

Annual statement of SJCOE nutrition-program policy includes eligibility guidelines

The San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) announces its annual statement on policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Under the current policy, students in the SJCOE's **one**.Program will continue to receive free breakfast and lunch, regardless of eligibility guidelines.

“Although there are federal and state guidelines as to who is eligible for free or reduced lunches, we have chosen to provide all students within our program with a free meal, regardless of his or her income level,” SJCOE Student Services Program Manager Jennifer Lawrence said.

All students in SJCOE's **one**.Charter and San Joaquin Building Futures Academy schools also receive free breakfast and lunch. Students in SJCOE Special Education programs receive free or reduced-price meals if families meet eligibility requirements.

The chart below contains the household size and income criteria used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price meal benefits.

Household size	Free Eligibility Scale for Lunch, Breakfast, and Milk					Reduced-Price Eligibility Scale for Lunch and Breakfast				
	Year	Month	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Week	Year	Month	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Week
1	\$15,782	\$1,316	\$658	\$607	\$304	\$22,459	\$1,872	\$936	\$864	\$432
2	\$21,398	\$1,784	\$892	\$823	\$412	\$30,451	\$2,538	\$1,269	\$1,172	\$586
3	\$27,014	\$2,252	\$1,126	\$1,039	\$520	\$38,443	\$3,204	\$1,602	\$1,479	\$740
4	\$32,630	\$2,720	\$1,360	\$1,255	\$628	\$46,435	\$3,870	\$1,935	\$1,786	\$893
5	\$38,246	\$3,188	\$1,594	\$1,471	\$736	\$54,427	\$4,536	\$2,268	\$2,094	\$1,047
6	\$43,862	\$3,656	\$1,828	\$1,687	\$844	\$62,419	\$5,202	\$2,601	\$2,401	\$1,201
7	\$49,478	\$4,124	\$2,062	\$1,903	\$952	\$70,411	\$5,868	\$2,934	\$2,709	\$1,355
8	\$55,094	\$4,592	\$2,296	\$2,119	\$1,060	\$78,403	\$6,534	\$3,267	\$3,016	\$1,508
For each additional family member, add:										
	\$5,616	\$468	\$234	\$216	\$108	\$7,992	\$666	\$333	\$308	\$154



Children from households whose income is equivalent or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Children with household members who receive Food Stamps (CalFresh), California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) benefits are automatically eligible for free meals regardless of the income of the household in which they reside. Individual children are also automatically eligible if categorized as foster, homeless, migrant, runaway, enrolled in an eligible Head Start program, or enrolled in an eligible pre-kindergarten class.

Applications are being distributed to all households with a letter informing them of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for enrolled children. Applications are also available at the SJCOE County Operated Schools and Programs office. Households must complete an application and return it to the school at any time during the school year for processing. Requirements for free and reduced-price lunch benefits are as follows:

- For households receiving CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR benefits – applications need only include the enrolled child's name; one CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR case number; and the signature of an adult household member.
- For households who do not list a CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR case number, the application must include the names of all household members, the amount and source of the income received by each household member, and the signature and corresponding last 4 digits of the Social Security number of an adult household member.
- For households with foster, homeless, migrant, or runaway children, the application must include the names of all enrolled children, indication of child's categorical eligibility status, and the signature of an adult household member.

Foster children may be included as a household member of a foster family choosing to apply for non-foster children. Children in households participating in Women, Infants and Children (WIC) may be eligible. Parents should contact school officials for more information or complete an application for processing.

Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the eligibility ruling may discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents may also make a formal request for an appeal hearing of the decision and may do so orally or in writing with the sponsor or agency's hearing official, Student Services Nutrition Specialist Ryan Flores, who can be contacted at (209) 468-9018 for information regarding the hearing procedures.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the family should contact the SJCOE, as the changes may make the household eligible.

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