



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 2, 2019

020-001: Nutrition Program Statement

Contact: Zack Johnson (209) 468-4937; Carly Sexton (209) 468-9297

SJCOE Announces its National School 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 | \$16,237 | \$1,354 | \$677 | \$625 | \$313 | \$23,107 | \$1,926 | \$963 | \$889 | \$445 |
| 2 | 21,983 | 1,832 | 916 | 846 | 423 | 31,284 | 2,607 | 1,304 | 1,204 | 602 |
| 3 | 27,729 | 2,311 | 1,156 | 1,067 | 534 | 39,461 | 3,289 | 1,645 | 1,518 | 759 |
| 4 | 33,475 | 2,790 | 1,395 | 1,288 | 644 | 47,638 | 3,970 | 1,985 | 1,833 | 917 |
| 5 | 39,221 | 3,269 | 1,635 | 1,509 | 755 | 55,815 | 4,652 | 2,326 | 2,147 | 1,074 |
| 6 | 44,967 | 3,748 | 1,874 | 1,730 | 865 | 63,992 | 5,333 | 2,667 | 2,462 | 1,231 |
| 7 | 50,713 | 4,227 | 2,114 | 1,951 | 976 | 72,169 | 6,015 | 3,008 | 2,776 | 1,388 |
| 8 | 56,459 | 4,705 | 2,353 | 2,172 | 1,086 | 80,346 | 6,696 | 3,348 | 3,091 | 1,546 |
| For each additional family member, add: | | | | | | | | | | |
| | \$5,746 | \$479 | \$240 | \$221 | \$111 | \$8,177 | \$682 | \$341 | \$315 | \$158 |



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 Carline Wagner, 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.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
James A. Mousalimas, County Superintendent of Schools

P.O. Box 213030
Stockton, CA 95213-9030
(209) 468-4800
www.sjcoe.org

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English, including in Spanish by calling (800) 845-6136.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax at (202) 690-7442, or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

About the San Joaquin County Office of Education:

San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJC OE) provides educational leadership, resources, and services to support schools throughout the county. With its highly regarded programs, innovative staff, and community partnerships, SJC OE ensures that every student in San Joaquin County has the opportunity of a quality education. For more information, visit www.sjcoe.org.