



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

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NEWS RELEASE

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Free and Reduced-Price Meal Programs

Eligible Students May Get a Break on Lunch

SAN DIEGO – San Diego City Schools offers free and reduced-price meals to eligible students under the federal government's 2003-2004 National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs.

Lunch, which is regularly \$1.00 in elementary schools and \$1.50 in secondary schools, will be free of charge to students whose parents qualify under the Free or Reduced Price Meal Gross Income Eligibility Guidelines. Currently, SDCS does not charge students who qualify for the Reduced Price Lunch Program. A similar program called the Child Care Food Program is provided for eligible children in district-operated child development centers.

An application form and federal and state-approved eligibility standards will be made available to all parents who have children enrolled in City Schools. The completed form must be returned to the child's school.

The district follows the California Income Eligibility Scale for Free or Reduced Price Meals to determine qualified applicants. Children whose families receive food stamps or California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWorks) benefits are automatically eligible, and their parents will be sent a notice of eligibility. Families with foster children might also be eligible and should contact the child's school for more information.

Eligibility will be determined by school administrators at each school site and may be verified at any time during the school year by the district's Food Services Department.

To find out if your income level qualifies for free or reduced price meals, or for more information, contact Food Services at (858) 627-7328 or visit the district's website at www2.sandi.net/food/meal.htm.

Serving more than 140,000 students, San Diego City Schools is the second largest school district in California, with more than 200 educational facilities and more than 17,000 employees. The district is undertaking unprecedented system-wide reforms aimed at increasing student achievement by focusing on developing high-quality site leadership and instruction, providing enhanced materials to the classroom, engaging parents and the community, and implementing an improved accountability system.

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