



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

EUGENE BRUCKER EDUCATION CENTER
4100 Normal Street, San Diego, CA 92103-2682

Phone: (619) 725-5578
Fax: (619) 725-5576

Media Contact: Ursula Kroemer

NEWS RELEASE

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Free and Reduced-Price Meal Programs

San Diego Unified School District today announced its policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. The Food Services central office has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

The price for breakfast is normally \$.50 at all schools. Lunch is \$1.25 in elementary schools and \$1.75 in secondary schools. All meals are free of charge to any students whose household size and income qualifies under the Free or Reduced-Price Eligibility scale. A similar program called the Child Care Food Program is provided for eligible children in district-operated child development centers. A parent or guardian must complete a 2006-2007 Household Application for Free and Reduced- Price Meals, sent home with students at the start of school, to qualify.

The criteria listed below will be used to determine eligibility for free, reduced-price, or full-price meal benefits. Children from households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. (The district currently does not charge students who qualify for the Reduced-Price Lunch Program.) Children who receive Food Stamp (FS), California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payments (Kin-GAP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) benefits are automatically eligible for free meals regardless of the income of the household. Eligibility for a foster child is based on a separate application and solely on the amount of the child's "personal use" income.

Participants from households with incomes at or below the following levels may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals or free milk.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	FREE ELIGIBILITY SCALE <i>BREAKFAST, LUNCH, MILK</i>					REDUCED-PRICE ELIGIBILITY SCALE <i>BREAKFAST, LUNCH, MILK</i>				
	YEAR	MONTH	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEK	YEAR	MONTH	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEK
1	\$12,740	\$ 1,062	\$ 531	\$ 490	\$ 245	\$ 18,130	\$ 1,511	\$ 756	\$ 698	\$ 349
2	17,160	1,430	715	660	330	24,420	2,035	1,018	940	470
3	21,580	1,799	900	830	415	30,710	2,560	1,280	1,182	591
4	26,000	2,167	1,084	1,000	500	37,000	3,084	1,542	1,424	712
5	30,420	2,535	1,268	1,170	585	43,290	3,608	1,804	1,665	833
6	34,840	2,904	1,452	1,340	670	49,580	4,132	2,066	1,907	954
7	39,260	3,272	1,636	1,510	755	55,870	4,656	2,328	2,149	1,075
8	43,680	3,640	1,820	1,680	840	62,160	5,180	2,590	2,391	1,196
For each additional family member, add:										
	\$ 4,420	\$ 369	\$ 185	\$ 170	\$ 85	\$ 6,290	\$ 525	\$ 263	\$ 242	\$ 121

Letters and application forms will be distributed to all households with information about the availability of free and reduced-price meals for enrolled children. Applications are also available in the school office. To apply for free or reduced-price meal benefits, households must complete an application and return it to the school office or Food Services for processing. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used to determine meal eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or program officials.

For households receiving Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR benefits – applications need only include the enrolled child(ren)'s name, Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR case number, and the signature of an adult household member. For households who do not list a Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, 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 Social Security number of an adult household member. If the household member who signs the application does not have a Social Security number, it must be indicated on the application.

Households that receive Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP or FDPIR benefits may not have to complete an application. Food Service officials can determine eligibility based on documentation obtained directly from the Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP or FDPIR office that a child is receiving benefits. Food Service officials will notify households of their eligibility. Those who do not want their child(ren) to receive free meals must contact Food Services at (858) 627-7328. Households still waiting for Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP or FDPIR eligibility notification on September 5, 2006, should complete a meal application.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the determining official(s), as designated by the San Diego Unified School District Food Services department, shall review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the eligibility ruling may discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents can make a formal request for an appeal, either verbally or in writing, with the Food Services hearing official. Parents or guardians should contact Food Services for specific information regarding the name of the determining official and/or hearing official for San Diego Unified.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, they should contact Food Services. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the income falls at or below the levels shown above.

To find out more about the free and reduced-price meal program, contact Food Services as (858) 627-7301 or visit the district's website at www.sandi.net/food.

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Serving more than 132,000 students, San Diego Unified School District is the second largest school district in California, with 216 schools and 34 additional educational facilities, and approximately 16,000 employees. The district is committed to accelerating gains in student performance, supporting schools and enhancing the classroom learning environment through modernized facilities and resources, and strengthening parent, community and higher education support of the educational process.

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, San Diego Unified School District is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD).

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider.