

POLICY

SOMERSET COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Subject: Free or Reduced Price Meals	Date Approved: January 15, 1980 February 21, 2006 May 26, 2009 Date Revised: November 20, 1990 August 20, 1996 December 19, 2005 March 17, 2009 Date Effective: August 20, 1996 February 21, 2006 May 26, 2009

1. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for students to receive free or reduced price meals in the Somerset county Public Schools.

2. GUIDELINES

- A. The Supervisor of Food and Nutrition Services shall make the decision as to which students are eligible for free or reduced price meals. In making this decision, the supervisor must base the decision on requirements set forth by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and promulgated by Maryland State Department of Education and adopted by the Somerset County Board of Education in the form of a policy statement issued annually.
- B. The principal of the school shall have the authority to approve students who are eligible for free or reduced price meals on a temporary basis. The Supervisor of Food and Nutrition Services will review the principal's decision and make final determination of eligibility status.
- C. In determining the eligibility of students to receive free or reduced price meals, many factors must be considered. Among these are:
 - (1) The general economic status of the community in which the student lives particularly with reference to seasonal work (e.g. the seafood industry)
 - (2) The total income of all the members of the family unit.
 - (3) The number of family members dependent on the total family income.

- (4) Guidance provided for the principals use annually in the form of memorandums and updates to the Free and Reduced Price Meal Handbook.
- D. The procedure to be used in providing free or reduced price meals shall be such that students receiving them shall not be so identified by other students or individuals. This necessitates food service in the same manner and at the same time as paying students.
- E. The method of collecting payment from paying students shall be such that those receiving free or reduced price meals shall not be identified as such by other students or individuals. This procedure may vary from school to school as the local school may find necessary.
- F. Patrons of the school may be informed of the policy of the school with reference to free or reduced price meals in the same manner as other school information is released to the public. In addition, a copy of the policy statement is available in the Somerset County Board of Education office and at each school.
- G. Schools participating in the meal program in Somerset County shall have a closed lunch policy with the exception of Crisfield and Washington High Schools which may elect to allow students within walking distance of the school to go home (their own or immediate relatives residence) for lunch.

3. NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In the operation of the child feeding programs no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age or handicap.