


Bridges Charter School 	Board Policy  <h2 style="text-align: center;">Free and Reduced Price Meals</h2>		
Policy Number: <h3 style="text-align: center;">3553</h3>	Adopted: <h3 style="text-align: center;">11/12/19</h3>	Revised:	Replaced:

### FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS

Bridges Charter School recognizes that adequate nutrition is essential to the development, health, and learning of all students. The Director or designee shall facilitate and encourage the participation of students from low-income families in the school's food service program.

The school shall provide at least one nutritionally adequate meal each school day, free of charge or at a reduced price, for students whose families meet federal eligibility criteria. (Education Code 49550, 49552)

The Director or designee shall ensure that meals provided through the free and reduced- price meal program meet applicable state and/or federal nutritional standards in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation.

The Board shall approve, and shall submit to the California Department of Education for approval, a plan that ensures that students eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals and milk are not treated differently from other students. (Education Code 49557)

#### **Confidentiality/Release of Records**

All applications and records related to eligibility for the free and reduced-price meal program shall be confidential except as provided by law. (Education Code 49558)

The Board authorizes designated employees (the Director and LEA Testing Coordinator) to use individual records pertaining to student eligibility for any free and reduced-price meal program for the purposes of disaggregation of academic achievement data. (Education Code 49558)

If a student transfers from the school to another school, charter school, county office of education program, or private school, the Director or designee may share the student's meal eligibility information to the other educational agency to assist in the continuation of the student's meal benefits.

The Director or designee may release the name and eligibility status of a student participating in the free or reduced-price meal program to another school, charter school, or county office of education that is serving a student living in the same household for purposes related to program eligibility and data used in local control funding formula calculations. (Education Code 49558)

The Director or designee may release the name and eligibility status of a student participating in the free or reduced-price meal program to the Director of Public Instruction for purposes of determining allocations under the local control funding formula and for assessing accountability of that funding. (Education Code 49558)

The Director or designee may release information on the school lunch program application to the local agency that determines eligibility for participation in the Medi-Cal program if the student has been approved for free meals or, if included in the agreement with the local agency, for reduced-price meals. He/she also may release information on the school lunch application to the local agency that determines eligibility for CalFresh or another nutrition assistance program authorized under 7 CFR 210.1 if the student has been approved for free or reduced-price meals. Information may be released for these purposes only if the student's parent/guardian consents to the sharing of information and the school has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the local agency which, at a minimum, includes the roles and responsibilities of the school and local agency and the process for sharing the information. After sharing information with the local agency for purposes of determining eligibility for that program, no further information shall be shared unless otherwise authorized.