

SECTION E: SUPPORT SERVICES

EFC School Nutrition Services: Free School Meals for All Students

The Board recognizes that sound nutrition is essential to students' physical and social-emotional well-being and their readiness to learn.

Region 8 will participate, as feasible, in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program and other food programs (e.g. After School Snacks and summer food programs) reimbursable through federal funds.

Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, Region 8 will provide one free breakfast and one free lunch to all students regardless of family income. Such meals will meet the nutritional requirements established in federal regulations. Free meals for all students are conditional to state funding and the Board would return to providing meals based on free and reduced guidelines if state funding changes or is not available.

In order to maximize funding for schools and to be able to identify additional benefits for which families may be eligible, parents will be asked to complete an application for free and reduced price meals unless participating in a special provision.

Students are still free to bring their own breakfast or lunch to school and/or to purchase a la carte items. All a la carte items must be paid for in advance or at the time of purchase.

Adults and post-grad students are not permitted to charge for meals and must pre-pay or pay at the time of purchase.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRS § 6601 et seq.

First Reading: 10/22/25

Adopted: 12/17/25

Revised: _____

Reviewed: _____