

Free and Reduced Rate Meals

It is the policy of the Newburgh Board of Education to provide reasonably priced lunches to students in the District whenever possible. In furtherance of that policy, and in recognition of the principle that all children are entitled to receive nourishing lunches regardless of family financial ability, the Board shall accept State and Federal assistance for school lunch programs in order to provide needy children with regular school lunches for free or on a reduced price basis.

Every effort shall be made to protect the anonymity of pupils receiving free or reduced price lunches, and assure that such pupils shall not be discriminated against or separated from other pupils in the process of procuring and consuming their lunches. All pupils shall be fed the same meal, at the same time as their classmates.

Eligibility for participation in the free or reduced price lunch program shall be determined by the reviewing official(s) by reference to the most recently published schedule entitled "New York State Family Eligibility Criteria for Free and Reduced Price Meals and Free Milk," issued by the Bureau of School Food Management.

Where a parent or legal guardian believes that the reviewing official's determination of ineligibility is not warranted, an appeal may be taken to the school official designated as Appeals Officer - School Lunch Program either orally or in writing. Whenever possible, a conference may be convened to attempt the settlement of the disputed matter prior to proceeding with the appeal.

The Board of Education shall insure that the District's school lunch program is operated in such a manner that no pupil shall be discriminated against on the basis of age, religion, race, creed, color, national origin, sex, disability, marital status, military status, sexual orientation, genetic predisposition or carrier status.

The Superintendent shall implement the provisions of this policy and shall be authorized to establish administrative regulations in furtherance thereof. He/She shall recommend, and the Board approves, the pricing of all meals at the several schools of the District, provided, however, that the pricing of lunches shall conform to Federal and State guidelines, if any, and be periodically determined as described above.