

3555 Nutrition Program Compliance

The Governing Board recognizes the district's responsibility to comply with state and federal nondiscrimination laws as they apply to the district's nutrition programs. The district shall not deny any individual the benefits or service of any nutrition program or discriminate against him/her on any basis prohibited by law.

Compliance Coordinator

The Board designates the compliance officer(s) specified in AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures as the district's civil rights coordinator to ensure compliance with the laws governing its nutrition programs and to investigate any related complaints.

The responsibilities of the compliance officer/coordinator include, but are not limited to:

1. Providing the name of the compliance coordinator, Section 504 coordinator, and Title IX coordinator, if different from the compliance coordinator, to the California Department of Education and other interested parties.
2. Annually providing mandatory civil rights training to all frontline staff who interact with program applicants or participants and to those who supervise frontline staff. The subject matter of such training shall include, but not be limited to, collection and use of data, effective public notification systems, complaint procedures, compliance review techniques, resolution of noncompliance, requirements for reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities, requirements for language assistance, conflict resolution, and customer service.
3. Establishing admission and enrollment procedures that do not restrict enrollment of students on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, or disability, including preventing staff from incorrectly denying applications and ensuring that such persons have equal access to all programs.
4. Sending a public release announcing the availability of the child nutrition programs and/or changes in the programs to public media and to community and grassroots organizations that interact directly with eligible or potentially eligible participants.
5. Communicating the program's nondiscrimination policy and applicable complaint procedures, as provided in the section "Notifications" below.
6. Providing appropriate translation services when a significant number of persons in the surrounding population have limited English proficiency.
7. Ensuring that every part of a facility is accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities and that participants with disabilities are not excluded from the benefits or services due to inaccessibility of facilities.
8. Ensuring that special meals are made available to participants with disabilities who have a medical statement on file documenting that their disability restricts their diet.
9. Implementing procedures to process and resolve civil rights (discrimination) complaints and program-related complaints, including maintaining a complaint log and working with the appropriate person to resolve any complaint.
10. Developing a method, which preferably uses self-identification or self-reporting, to collect racial and ethnic data for potentially eligible populations, applicants, and participants.

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Notifications

The compliance coordinator shall ensure that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) "And Justice for All" civil rights poster or a substitute poster approved by the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service shall be displayed in areas visible to the district's nutrition program participants, such as food service areas and school offices.

The compliance coordinator shall notify the public, all program applicants, participants, and potentially eligible persons of their program rights and responsibilities and steps necessary for participation. Applicants, participants, and the public also shall be advised of their right to file a complaint, how to file a complaint, the complaint procedures, and that a complaint may be file anonymously or by a third party.

In addition, the compliance coordinator shall ensure that all forms of communication available to the public regarding program availability shall contain, in a prominent location, the most current version of the nondiscrimination statement provided by USDA about the district's status as an equal opportunity provider and the address of the agency with responsibility to handle complaints made against the district.

"In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling call (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil right violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or (833) 256-1665
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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Forms of communication requiring this nondiscrimination statement include, but are not limited to, web sites, public information releases, publications, and posters, but exclude menus. The nondiscrimination statement need not be included on every page of program information on the district's or school's web site, but the statement or a link to the statement shall be included on the home page of the program information.

A short version of the nondiscrimination statement, stating "This institution is an equal opportunity provider," may be used on pamphlets, brochures, and flyers in the same print size as the rest of the text.

Complaints of Discrimination

Any complaint concerning the district's nutrition programs shall be investigated using the process identified in AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

When a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability is unresolved at the district level, the coordinator shall notify the complainant of the option to contact and/or forward his/her complaint to one of the following agencies:

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

(866) 632-9992, (800) 877-8339

(Federal Relay Service – English, deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabilities)

(800) 845-6136 (Federal Relay Service - Spanish)

Fax: (202) 690-7442 or (833) 256-1665

Email: program.intake.usda.gov

Complaints Regarding Noncompliance with Program Requirements

Any complaint alleging that the district has not complied with program requirements pertaining to meal counting and claiming, reimbursable meals, eligibility of a child or adult, use of cafeteria funds and allowable expenses in relation to any child nutrition program specified in Education Code 49564.5 shall be filed with or referred to CDE. (Education Code 49556; 5 CCR 15584)

Complaints of noncompliance with any other nutrition program requirements shall be submitted to and investigated by the district using the following procedures.

Complaints may be filed by the student or the student's parent/guardian by phone, email, or letter. The complaint shall be submitted within one year from the date of the alleged violation and shall include the following: (5 CCR 15581)

1. A statement that the district has violated a law or regulation relating to its child nutrition program.
2. The facts on which the statement is based.

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3. The name of the district or the school against which the allegations are made.
4. The complainant's contact information.
5. The name of the student if alleging violations regarding a specific student.

The district shall investigate and prepare a written report pursuant to 5 CCR 4631. (5 CCR 15583)

Unless extended by written agreement with the complainant, the district's compliance coordinator shall investigate the complaint and prepare a written report to be sent to the complainant within 30 calendar days of the district's receipt of the complaint. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the compliance coordinator's decision, the complainant may, within five business days, file the complaint in writing with the Board.

The Board shall consider the matter at its next regular board meeting or at a special board meeting convened in order to meet the 60-day time limit within which the complaint must be answered pursuant to 5 CCR 4631. When required by law, the matter shall be considered in closed session. The Board may decide not to consider the complaint, in which case the coordinator's decision shall be final.

If the Board considers the complaint, the Board's decision shall be sent to the complainant within 60 calendar days of the district's initial receipt of the complaint or within the time period that has been specified in a written agreement with the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

Board Approved:

May 11, 2023

October 22, 2020

September 15, 2016

Effective Date: October 28, 2010