AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS Adopted May 1974 Revised September 1978 Recoded June 1993 Revised September 2007 Revised June 2017

#### FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE NUTRITION SERVICES

District participation in the school breakfast, lunch, summer school food service program, commodity programs and other child nutrition programs at the discretion of the of the Nutrition Services Department shall be in accordance with rules and regulations established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as interpreted by the Child Nutrition Services Unit of the Colorado Department of Education.

LEGAL REFS.: 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq. (National School Lunch Act)

7 C.F.R. 245.5 (must inform families of the availability of reimbursable school meals and provide information about applying for free or reduced price meals.

**APS Code: EFC** 

C.R.S. 22-32-120 (food services)

C.R.S. 22-82.7-101 et seq. (Start Smart Nutrition Program provides funding to eliminate amount students who qualify for reduced price meals pay in school breakfast program)

C.R.S. 22-82.9-101 et seq. (Child Nutrition School Lunch Protection Program provides funding to eliminate amount students in preschool through fifth grade pay for school lunch program, if they qualify for reduced meals)

CROSS REF.: EF, Food Services

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The procedures for administration of free and reduced price meals are as follows.

- A. The nutrition services department will make an electronic form available to every enrolled students' parent or guardian available on July 1 of the current school year.
- B. Applications and documentation of actions are maintained for the duration of one audit cycle as stipulated by the Colorado Department of Education.
- C. Applications may be filed at any time during the school year. A parent or guardian enrolling a child in a school for the first time will be asked by centralized admissions to fill out the electronic form.
- D. The nutrition services department will review the electronic form and make an eligibility determination.
- E. The nutrition services department will participate in direct certification with the Colorado Department of Education.
- F. Parents or guardians will receive notification of their qualifying status within 10 days of their electronic form submission.
- G. If a student has money on their account, a parent or guardian may request the funds be transferred to another student or refunded by the district.
- H. If an account with a positive balance is inactive for more than 3 years, the funds will be turned over to the Colorado Secretary of State, after attempting to refund the family.
- I. When an application is denied, the parents or guardians are to be informed of the reason and the right to a hearing.
- J. The designated hearing officer shall be the Nutrition Services Director or designee.
- K. There will be no physical segregation or other discrimination against any child because of the inability to pay the full price of a meal. The names of the children eligible to receive free or reduced priced meals shall not be published, posted or announced in any manner, and there

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shall be no overt identification of such children by use of a special token, tickets or other means.

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- L. In operation of the child nutrition programs, no child shall be discriminated against and all United States Department of Agriculture and Colorado Department of Education current civil rights regulations will be adhered to.
- M. In accordance with Proposition FF, all students will receive one free breakfast and one free lunch each scheduled school day, effective August 2023.

LEGAL REFS.: 7 CFR PART 245