



School Cafeteria Questions and Answers

May I come in to the school cafeteria during breakfast and lunch to eat with my student?

This decision is made at the site level. Please talk to the Principal at your school site or your school office staff to find out what the policy is at your school.

May I purchase a meal from the school cafeteria?

Yes, student meals are less expensive or free because they are subsidized by the federal government. Adult meals and meals for siblings that are not enrolled at the school may be purchased for *full price*.

Can my child share their meal with a sibling?

No, your child needs the nutrition offered in our meals to meet their energy demands. The meals served in our cafeterias are purchased with federal funds and each meal is planned to meet the nutritional needs of *one* child. It is unlawful for a student meal to be shared with anyone.

What if my child does not eat the entire meal? May I finish it for him or feed it to a sibling?

No, school districts are required to make every effort to ensure that meals served in their programs are consumed *only* by the children for whom they were intended. *No adult, or any child not enrolled in the school, may eat from an enrolled child's plate.*

May I take the uneaten food home for him to eat later?

No, we encourage our students to eat the entire meal, but any food not eaten by the child must be thrown away. *All school meals must be served and consumed on school grounds* or other school approved and supervised premises. Any unopened items may be placed on a share table for another enrolled student to eat while in the cafeteria.

Legal References:

*California Education Code Section 38082
Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations
National School Lunch Act
Child Nutrition Act of 1966.*



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