

Nutritious Meals for Charter School Students



AB 1871

**Equity.
Education.
Food for all.**

Charter schools are
public schools

that enroll

1 in 10

CA public school students,
including

**340,000+
students**

whose families are struggling
to make ends meet. These
students are

**NOW
guaranteed access
to nutritious
school meals.**

School Meal Guarantee

AB 1871 has become law! Now students in need are guaranteed access to at least one nutritious, free or reduced-price meal each school day – no matter which public school they attend. Giving children the food they need to learn and grow means they can focus on what's at hand and what's ahead, not on what's missing.

Which students must have access to a meal?

Any public school student who qualifies for a free or reduced-price (FRP) school meal per federal criteria must have access to at least one such meal each school day. A summary of eligibility criteria is available here: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/rs/#scales>.

For an eligible student attending a non-classroom based charter school, a meal must be available on any day that student is scheduled for two hours or more of educational activities at a school site, resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility operated by the charter school.

What is considered a nutritious meal?

Students must be offered a breakfast and/or lunch that meets the nutrition standards set for the federal school meal programs. However, a school does not have to participate in the federal school meal programs in order to comply with this law. More information about meal standards is available here: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/he/smi.asp>.

When does the school meal guarantee take effect?

Existing charter school must offer meals at the start of the 2019-20 school year. A charter school that begins operating on or after July 1, 2019 must offer meals at the start of the next school year and notify families in writing about any period of time for which meals will not be offered.

What does this mean for charter school authorizers?

Upon request by a charter school, a charter school authorizer must provide, to the extent feasible within existing resources, technical assistance about offering school meals to students in need.

Find the full text of the law & other details: www.cfpa.net/ab1871
For more school meal information from the CA Department of Education, visit <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/>