

## **FREE AND REDUCED PRICE FOOD SERVICES**

The Ellsworth School Department (ESD) shall take part, as feasible, in the National School Lunch and other food programs which may become available to assure that all children for whom the Ellsworth School Committee (ESC) is responsible shall have the opportunity to receive proper nourishment.

Parents shall be advised that this program is available and eligibility criteria shall be made public.

In accordance with the guidelines for participation in these programs, and in accordance with the wishes of the ESC, no child who a teacher believes is improperly nourished shall be denied a free lunch, or other food, simply because proper application has not been received from his/her parents or guardian.

It shall be the policy of the ESD that when school lunch is desired, payment is expected on that day or in advance by/for pupils not eligible for free lunches. Should there be any difficulty in obtaining such payment, the matter is to be resolved by direct contact with the parent (or student, if emancipated). No student is to be denied food as a disciplinary measure.

The superintendent shall establish and publish, as appropriate, procedures which conform with state and federal requirements and the intent of this policy regarding participation in programs for free/reduced price meals and supplementary food.

ESD employees are not eligible to receive free or reduced price meals.

Legal Reference:       20-A MRSA § 6601 et seq.

Adopted:               **August 1996**

Revised:               **April 16, 2002** (per MSMA revision)  
                              **November 7, 2006** (formatting, grammar only)