

F O O D

Donation Policy



Frequently Asked Questions:

In an effort to avoid discarding excess or unused food served in the school meal program, the Board of Education of the Los Angeles Unified School District has recently passed a resolution, entitled “Healthy Students, Healthy Families, Healthy Communities” introduced by Board Member Dr. Richard Vladovic, to make the excess or unused food be available to charitable non-profit organizations.

The following are popular questions received regarding the process:

- 1. This sounds like a great way to help the community, but what is the responsibility of the school Principal/Administrator and the Food Services Manager?**

The Principals’ involvement is to be aware that approved agencies will be coming onto the campus to receive donated food.

The Cafeteria Manager will be working directly with the Non-Profit Organizations to ensure all processes are followed per health department regulations.

- 2. If an organization asks to be a part of the program, where are they to be referred?**

Please refer any organization to the Food Services Division at 213-241-6419 or 213-241-6422 or have them visit the website at: <http://achieve.lausd.net/cafela>

- 3. Where can I find a list of acceptable organizations that can pick-up donated foods?**

The list of acceptable organizations is available on the Food Services Division’s website at: <http://achieve.lausd.net/cafela>

- 4. Can students, parents or school personnel take food home that is scheduled to be donated?**

No, only approved non-profit organizations can receive donated foods, whose ultimate destination is for individuals and families.

- 5. Do the school parent centers qualify as a “non-profit organization” and pick up donated foods?**

If an organization wishes to participate, it must sign an “Agreement for Donation of Leftover

Food Items,” which indicates the Non-Profit Organization is aware of the program and procedures and has the following:

- Satisfactory liability insurance
- “Hold Harmless” agreement

The LAUSD Office of General Counsel will review and provide acceptability.

6. Does every school cafeteria have to participate?

The Healthy Families, Healthy Schools, Healthy Communities motion was passed by the LAUSD School Board. Therefore, any school within the district must adhere and participate in the program.

7. What will be donated?

Typically, the food that may be donated will be packaged items such as spaghetti and meatballs, lasagna, fluid milk, whole wheat breads, crackers, etc. that can be held within a proper temperature control environment.

8. What do we do if the “non-profit organization” does not bring acceptable containers for transporting food?

Per the signed agreement, Organizations may not take the donated goods in unacceptable containers.

9. What if the “non-profit organization” does not show up during the designated time?

Remind the Non-Profit Organization of the designated time. LAUSD cannot provide access to campus if it is after 30 minutes

passed the meal period, in accordance with CFRC Article 2, Section 113996.

10. Can the food served to students that they do not want, be given to a “non-profit organization?”

Yes, consistent with the Healthy Families, Healthy Schools, Healthy Communities resolution, food served to students they do not want can be given to a non-profit organization.

11. Why is some of the same type items not donated each day?

Foods served to children vary daily and those that can be donated must be within safe temperature levels. Safe temperature levels require cold food to be held at 41⁰ Fahrenheit or below, and hot foods to be held at 140⁰ Fahrenheit or above.

12. What can a Principal/Administrator do to encourage students not to throw away food that could be donated?

Principals/administration can encourage students to put food they are not going to eat on a common table, either for other students to consume or to be available for donation.

13. Is the District liable if something happens to the donated goods?

The District requires all non-profit organizations to enter into agreements regarding their responsibilities to participate including the transportation, distribution, use and consumption of the food items. Therefore, the District is not liable.

