

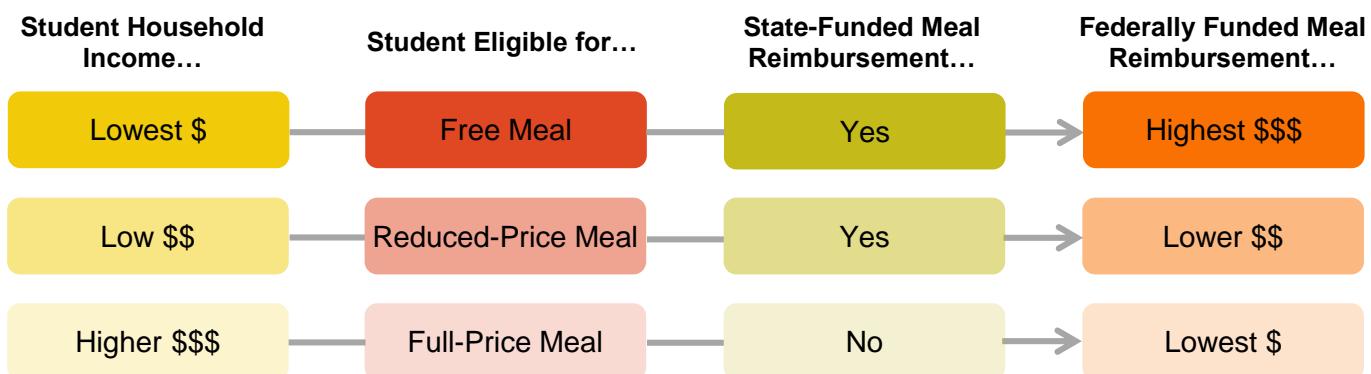
# Provision 2 Facts

Contact: Tia Shimada  
[tia@cfpa.net](mailto:tia@cfpa.net) or 510.433.1122 ext.109



## School Meal Basics

- All public schools can operate the federal school lunch and school breakfast programs.
- Low-income students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals.
- Participating schools receive a federally funded reimbursement for each meal served. Schools receive the highest reimbursement for meals served to the lowest-income students.
- California schools receive a state-funded reimbursement for meals served to lower-income students. The federal reimbursement is several times larger than the state -- both are vital to the school meal programs.



## Provision 2

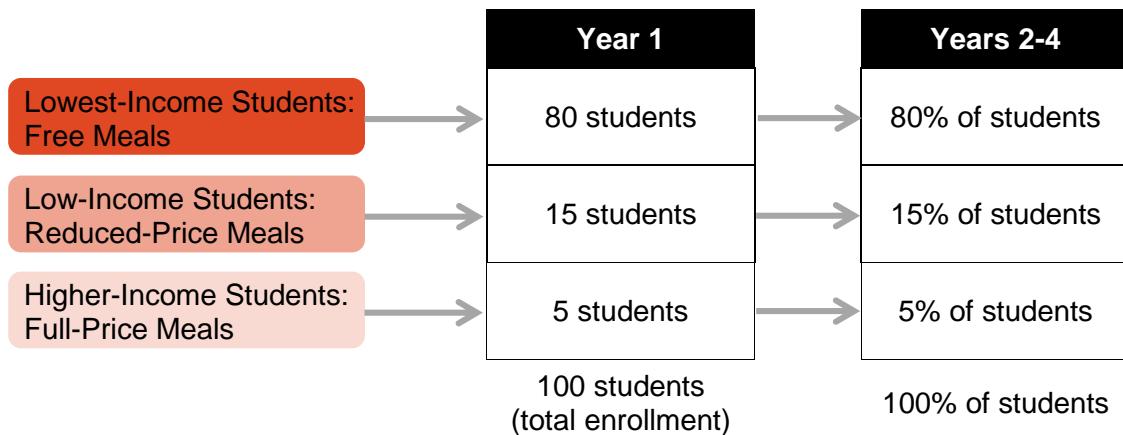
Provision 2 is a federally authorized option used in high-poverty schools. The option has been available to schools since 1980. Provision 2 determines how a school does three things:

1. Identify low-income students
2. Serve school meals
3. Get reimbursed for schools meals

### Identifying Low-Income Students

Provision 2 operates on a four-year cycle. In the first year (the base year), a school determines how many of its students are eligible for free, reduced-price, and full-price meals. A school can use direct certification or household applications to determine students' eligibility. From this count of students, the school calculates what percentage of the student population is eligible for free, reduced-price, and full-price meals. The percentages apply for the remainder of the four-year cycle.

#### An Example: Identifying Low-Income Students via Provision 2



A school can request that its Provision 2 cycle be extended if the income level of its student population has not significantly improved since the base year. The extension requires state approval for which an authorized source socioeconomic data is needed to demonstrate that income levels have not increased by more than five percent in four years.

### Serving School Meals

Provision 2 schools must serve meals at no charge to all students, regardless of a student's eligibility for free, reduced-price, or full-price meals. Because Provision 2 is used in high-poverty schools most, if not all, students in attendance are low-income.

### School Meal Reimbursements

Despite serving all meals at no charge, Provision 2 schools still receive federal meal reimbursements based on the percentage of students who are eligible for free, reduced-price, or full-price meals. For example, if 80% of students are identified as eligible for free meals, the school receives the free (i.e., highest) rate of reimbursement for 80% of the meals that are served.

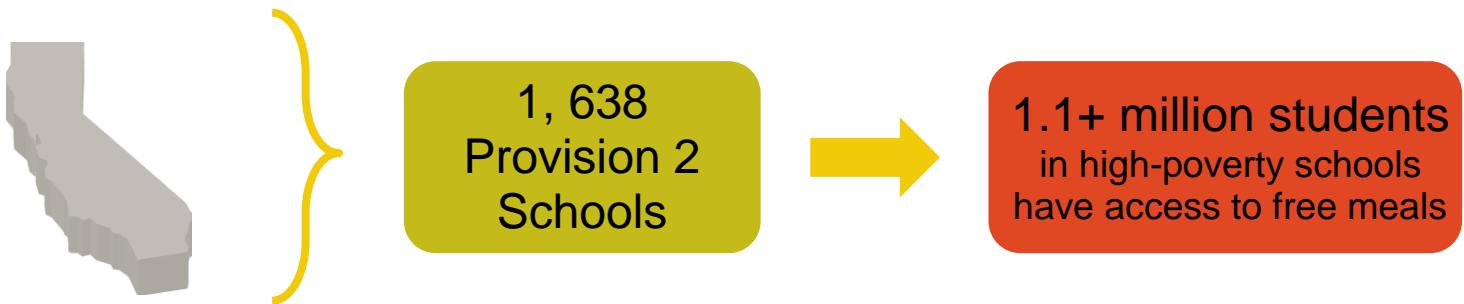
### Benefits of Provision 2

Provision 2 benefits low-income students and high-poverty schools by improving access to school meals and increasing efficiency. With Provision 2...

- All students in high-poverty schools access meals at no charge.
- More low-income students are served through innovative programs like Classroom Breakfast that operate best when all students can be served at no charge.
- Struggling families face fewer unnecessary barriers to accessing the support they need.
- Schools and school districts increase efficiency and decrease administrative burden.

### Provision 2 in California

In September 2012, approximately 1,638 California public schools (including charter schools) utilized Provision 2. Collectively, these schools enrolled more than an estimated 1.1 million students.  
(Data source: CFPA analysis of data from the California Department of Education)



### Additional Resources

Provision 2 Factsheet, United States Department of Agriculture:

[http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/prov-1-2-3/Prov1\\_2\\_3\\_FactSheet.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/prov-1-2-3/Prov1_2_3_FactSheet.htm)

Provision 2 Guidance, United States Department of Agriculture:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/prov-1-2-3/Prov2Guidance.pdf>