

**BOD 2024-25 – 4R**

**Accepting EBT Cards at Campus Restaurants and Markets**

**WHEREAS**, Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) of California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) is the recognized voice of approximately 11,000 students; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the mission of the ASI Board of Directors to advocate and provide responsible and effective leadership for a diverse student population to make sound decisions for the betterment of CSUEB students; and

**WHEREAS**, food insecurity is a significant and growing concern among CSUEB students, as evidenced by the CSUEB National College Health Assessment conducted in Spring 2024, which found that **53.1%** of students reported experiencing food insecurity, including **28.6%** with low food security and **24.5%** with very low food security<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Student Wellbeing Services on the Hayward campus currently offers comprehensive access to perishable and shelf-stable food for students in need at the H.O.P.E Food Pantry. Data shows a marked increase in demand, with **1,803 visits and 497 unique students served in 2022–2023, 2,802 visits and 828 unique students served in 2023–2024, and 1,517 visits and 612 unique students in Fall 2024** alone<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, CalFresh, also known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), provides low-income individuals with access to nutritious food through monthly benefits of up to **\$281** for students, accessed via Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards; and

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.csueastbay.edu/shcs/files/docs/ncha-iiib-spring-2024-california-state-university-east-bay-institutional-executive-summary.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1OQ83\\_sO8qe9XRQ36ldGIFTNyLp97IT5c3h02h2s6Mg/edit#slide=id.p1](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1OQ83_sO8qe9XRQ36ldGIFTNyLp97IT5c3h02h2s6Mg/edit#slide=id.p1)



**WHEREAS**, despite qualifying for CalFresh and receiving EBT benefits, many CSUEB students face barriers in using their EBT cards at campus dining locations due to the lack of acceptance infrastructure, limiting their affordable food options; and

**WHEREAS**, CSUEB ASI recognizes and **strongly supports the system-wide CSU effort to incorporate EBT accessibility across all CSU campuses**, emphasizing the long-term goal of the Chancellor’s Office to facilitate a system-wide commitment, satisfying the goal of implementing immediate food assistance of the CSU Basic Needs Initiative, ensuring equitable access to food resources and nutritional support for all students, regardless of location<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, 9 other California State University (CSU) campuses have already implemented EBT card acceptance at campus markets and/or dining facilities, demonstrating the feasibility of such systems within the CSU framework; and

**RESOLVED**, that CSUEB ASI urges all campus dining services and markets—including but not limited to Pioneer Kitchen, Fry Shack, and Wild Blue—to implement a system that accepts EBT cards as a form of payment; and let it be further

**RESOLVED**, that CSUEB ASI advocates for the university administration to collaborate with Chartwells Dining Services and the California Department of Social Services to facilitate the process of becoming EBT-authorized retailers; and let it be further

**RESOLVED**, that CSUEB ASI voices its full support for the broader California State University system-wide initiative to expand EBT accessibility on all campuses, and encourages continued collaboration between campuses to share best practices and solutions; and let it be further

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/student-success/basic-needs-initiative/Documents/ServingDisplacedandFoodInsecureStudentsintheCSUJanuary20163.8.16.pdf>



**RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be distributed to University President Cathy Sandeen, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Brenda Amenson-Hill, Resident District Manager Marc Sterling, Director of Recreation and Student Wellbeing Jennifer Luna, *The Pioneer*, the CSU Chancellor’s Office, and other relevant campus and community stakeholders; and let it be further

**RESOLVED**, that CSUEB ASI continues to advocate for initiatives that support the basic needs of students to ensure their success and well-being.

Authored by:

Kartik Tripathi, ASI Director of Communities

Jana Sofia Arella Ramos, ASI Director of Sustainability

Approved On:

ASI President/CEO does hereby [  ] *approves* / [  ] *refuses to approve* this resolution.

  

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Kartik Tripathi (Apr 22, 2025 19:21 PDT)  
Kartik Tripathi  
*ASI Director of Communities*

  

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Jana Ramos (Apr 18, 2025 11:23 PDT)  
Jana Sofia Arella Ramos  
*ASI Director of Sustainability*

  

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Nolan Calara (Apr 17, 2025 16:49 PDT)  
Nolan Calara  
*ASI President/CEO*

Approved by: ASI Board of Directors 2024-25

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**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS INC**  
**CAL STATE EAST BAY**

# BOD 2024-25 – 4R Accepting EBT Cards at Campus Restaurants and Markets

Final Audit Report

2025-04-22

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