

Increasing Student Enrollment and Participation in the National School Lunch Program



WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

☆ Benefits to schools

- Schools receive money based on the figures that come from these forms!
- Free and reduced lunch counts determine individual school eligibility for Federal Title I funding.
- There are other grants and award available to schools based on percentages of students enrolled in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
- Having a free/reduced lunch participation rate which accurately reflects the economic status of the school's students ensures a more accurate "similar schools" ranking on the Academic Performance Index.
- More students qualified for free or reduced lunch means more Weighted Student Formula (WSF) funding for the school.

☆ Benefits to enrolled students

- Eligible students can receive breakfast as well as lunch.
- Often school lunch is more nutritious than what students bring from home, because the school lunch must comply with USDA nutrition standards.
- Studies show students who eat a nutritious breakfast and lunch learn better and behave better in school.
- Enrolled students pay a greatly reduced rate for each AP exam they take, and are eligible to participate in other paid programs at reduced or no cost.

☆ Benefits to every student in the school

- Higher participation in the lunch line means better quality food for everyone!
- Student Nutrition Services (SNS) is working to improve the meal quality at all schools, but changes require money. The budget for SNS comes from government reimbursement and from student's payments for each meal served. No revenue is generated when students don't sign up or use the lunch program, when students buy their food off campus or from vending machines, or when students do not pay for their lunches even when they should. If more students enroll and use school meal programs, more money will be available to order fresher, more appealing food for every student's lunch, whether they are eating the NSLP lunch or buying a la carte food from the Beanery.

Who can I talk to for help if I have more questions?

Student Nutrition Services (415) 749-3604