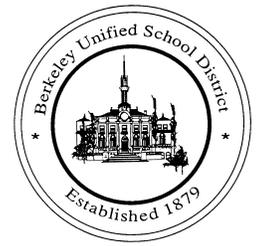


Berkeley Unified School District



Nutrition Services

1720 Oregon Street, Berkeley, California 94703
(510) 644-6200 Fax: (510) 644-8784

Announcement Regarding A Change in Reduced Price Lunch Meals

In an effort to increase participation of children in the reduced price group and meet the needs of our community, the Berkeley Unified Nutrition Service Department with the approval of the School Board is eliminating the reduced price meal fee of .40 cents starting February 1, 2010.

Reports from across the country indicate that too many reduced price families cannot afford 40¢ for each child every day for school lunch. This is corroborated by evidence that reduced price participation declines towards the end of the month.

Children in the reduced price category come from families that may be classified as the working poor. These may include welfare to work families who are improving their economic conditions. However, their income no longer qualifies them for housing, utility or medical assistance, straining minimum wage earnings.

The WIC program provides free benefits to nutritionally at risk women and children to age 5 in households with income at 185% or less of the U.S. poverty income guidelines. Eliminating the reduced price category would make WIC and school meal eligibility guidelines consistent.

Using USDA and SNA estimates, there are about 1 million children in this country who are eligible for reduced price meals who are not participating in the National School Lunch Program. A December 2008 report by SNA showed that 52% of school districts saw an increase in the number of students that owe money to the school nutrition programs as a result of unpaid or overdue accounts. According to school nutrition directors, the students that are most likely to charge meals are from families that are unable to pay \$0.40 for reduced price meals.

You may be aware that we have been working hard to make the program self supporting, and that in previous years we have had to encroach on the General Fund in order to maintain the high level of quality in the meals that we serve to your children. While this would appear to have a negative impact on our revenue, it will in fact increasing our overall revenue by increasing participation, while doing the right thing for our students.

Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 510-644-4598 or by email at marni_posey@berkeley.k12.ca.us.

Thank you,

Marni Posey, Director of Nutrition Services