



A CAMPAIGN FOR FREE AND HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCH FOR ALL

1: Students Win

Eliminate Stigma:

- **No income identification of students in the lunchroom or anywhere else.**
- **Increase participation. More students will eat school lunch meaning better nutrition for all.**

Many students skip school meals because of the “poor kid” stigma. Studies and surveys show that school meals are more nutritious than items students buy from stores or bring from home. School meals offer more vegetables, fruits, and whole grains to fight childhood obesity and sustain children’s health.

2: Schools Win

Eliminate costly and labor intensive paperwork for schools:

- **No need for schools to collect family income applications.**
- **No need for school staff to identify students by income at the point of meal service.**

Save valuable staff time that could otherwise be used for education. Several federal options are available that do not require schools to collect forms or income information from parents. The Mayor, City Council, and Chancellor of the Department of Education should seize these opportunities.

3: Jobs and the Local Economy Win

Increase school meals participation:

- **More meals mean more jobs -- every 10% increase in lunch participation creates approximately 500 jobs.**
- **More meals mean more food purchased in the local economy.**

Most of the costs of school meals are covered by federal and state reimbursements. These funds add to the city’s economy by providing thousands of jobs in school cafeterias and the food industry, generating significant local economic activity at minimal cost to the city.

New York City can offer free school lunch to all students for an additional \$20 annual investment per student. The additional \$20 million city investment will bring in \$59 million of federal and state funding.

The next mayor of NYC should make this a priority.

FREE AND HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCH FOR ALL

Summary of New York City Cost and Federal and State Revenues Generated

For an additional investment of \$20 per student New York City could offer free lunch to all students and bring an increase of \$59 dollars per student to NYC in federal and state government revenue. It would also result in:

- **120,000 additional students eating school lunchⁱ**
- **1,000 new jobs createdⁱⁱ**

Cost and revenue under the current model

Difference between NY's cost of \$3.00 per lunch and federal and state government reimbursement = \$47,564,748

Revenue from student fees (at \$1.50 for paid and \$.25 per reduced price meal)ⁱⁱⁱ = -\$10,000,000

Current cost to NYC for school lunches served in 2011-12 school year = ***\$37,564,748***

New York's investment of \$38 million generates \$298 million in federal and state revenue.

Cost and revenue generated under universal school meals model

Providing free school lunch to all students would result in higher participation levels, estimated to be 20% across the board, including by students in the paid and reduced price categories. Although this would increase NYC's cost, it would also increase federal and state reimbursements.

With a 20% increase in participation and no student fees collected:

Difference between NY's \$3.00 cost and federal and state government reimbursement = ***\$57,184,626.***

This investment of \$57 million, \$20 million more than the current investment, would generate \$358 million in federal and state revenue.

ⁱ In Provision 2 schools free lunch is provided to all students: participation increased in elementary schools by 13%, in middle schools by 20%, and in high schools by 53%.

Citywide total lunch participation in Provision 2 schools was 80%, and in non-Provision 2 schools it was 61% -- a 31% difference. (Data from year-to-date from Sept.2010 to February 2011.)

ⁱⁱ As per DC 37/Local 372, 5.5 labor hrs/100 lunches. 120,000 lunches/day = 6,600 hrs (5.5 x 1,200). At 6.6 hrs/worker = 1,000 workers.

ⁱⁱⁱ At current participation levels, if student fees were collected for all reduced price and paid meals served, the city would have collected \$28,435,014. However, some meals were served in "Provision 2" schools where no money is collected, and in some schools students are fed although the required fees may not be collected.

FREE AND HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCH FOR ALL

Current Cost of School Lunch

(Reflects \$3.00 cost/lunch)

	Total Meals 2011-12	% Eligible served	Current cost lunch @ \$3.00	Total federal and state government revenue	Cost to NY City (Difference)
Total	115,228,866	60%	\$345,686,598	\$298,121,850	(-\$47,564,748)

*SchoolFood collected approximately \$10 million in student fees from the paid and reduced-price categories, bringing down their costs to **\$37.5 million**.*

Projected Cost of Universal School Lunch at 20% Increase in Participation

	Total Meals 2011-12	% Eligible served	Current cost lunch @ \$3.00	Total federal and state government revenue	Cost to NY City (Difference)
Total	138,274,638	72%	\$414,823,914	\$357,639,288	(-\$57,184,626)

Data explanation:

Total number of meals served are from SchoolFood claims for school year 2011-12.

Federal and State Reimbursements per meal are for school year 2012-13. Free reimbursement = \$2.999; Reduced Price reimbursement = \$2.7381; Paid reimbursement = \$.4099.

Current Cost and Revenue for School Lunch

(updated to reflect \$3.00 cost/lunch)

Category	Total Meals 2011-12	% Eligible Served	Cost @ \$3.00 Per Lunch	Federal Reimb./Lunch	State Reimb.	Total Gov't Reimb./lunch	Total Gov't Revenue	Student Fees Actual	Difference
Free	88,694,842	68%	\$266,084,526	\$2.94	\$.0599	\$2.9999	\$266,075,657		- \$8,869
Reduced Price	9,092,817	56%	27,278,451	\$2.54	\$.1981	\$2.7381	24,897,042		-\$2,381,409
Paid	17,441,207	39%	52,323,621	\$ 0.35	\$.0599	\$0.4099	7,149,151		-\$45,174,470
Total	115,228,866	60%	\$345,686,598				\$298,121,850		-\$47,564,748
Student fees								\$10,000,000	-\$37,564,748

Projected Cost and Revenue at 20% Increase in Participation in All Categories Under Universal Lunch

Category	20% Increase in Total Meals	% Eligible Served	Projected Cost @ \$3.00/lunch	Federal Reimb.	State Reimb.	Total Gov't Reimb.	Projected Gov't Revenue	Student Fees	Difference
Free	106,433,810	81%	\$319,301,430	\$2.94	\$.0599	\$2.9999	\$319,290,787		-\$10,643
Reduced Price	10,911,380	67%	32,734,140	\$2.54	\$.1981	\$2.7381	29,876,450		-\$2,857,690
Paid	20,929,448	47%	62,788,344	\$0.35	\$.0599	\$.4099	8,472,051		-\$54,316,293
Total	138,274,638	72%	\$414,823,914				\$357,639,288	None	-\$57,184,626

Data explanation:

Number of lunches served are from SchoolFood claims for school year 2011-12

Federal and State Reimbursements per meal are for school year 2012-13