



Positive Impact of Universal Free School Lunch and the "Community Eligibility Provision" (CEP) in New York City Middle Schools

September – December 2014

- The Department of Education instituted Universal Free School Lunch in stand-alone middle schools in September 2014. Middle school student participation in the school lunch program increased by over 8% in the first four months of this school year (2014) compared to the same period last year (2013).*
- During this same period elementary and high school participation remained flat, strongly suggesting that increased participation in 2014 for middle school students is directly related to the implementation of universal free school lunch.
- New York City will receive an additional \$4.1 million in federal and state reimbursements for the first 4 months of the school year due to the increase in middle school participation coupled with the new reimbursement structure under the federal Community Eligibility Provision. CEP shifts more meals to the "Free" category, with highest reimbursement (\$3.12 per lunch), and fewer meals to "Reduced Price" (\$2.86) and "Paid" (\$.42) categories.
- Increased participation means fewer students skipping meals due to fear of the poverty stigma or a family's inability to afford school lunch.

*Analysis is based on SchoolFood division of the Department of Education school lunch participation

Community Eligibility (CEP) in Middle Schools (Division 2)

September – December, 2013 and 2014

LUNCH Comparisons

Participation for middle school students has gone up steadily in 2014 for September through December compared to the same months in 2013.

There has been no similar increase in participation in the other grade levels:

2014 Compared to 2013	Middle School Students Lunch Participation	Balance of Students Elementary and High School Lunch Participation
September Increase/Decrease	+2.9%	+ .7%
October Increase/Decrease	+ 8.9%	+ .02%
November Increase/Decrease	+8.6%	-1.2%
December Increase/Decrease	+9.7%	-1.2%

As a result of implementation of CEP, there has been an increase in total meals served in 2014, and a significant shift in meals from Reduced Price and Paid categories to the Free category. For this latter category there is higher reimbursement, bringing in additional federal and state dollars to the city of **\$3,604,504** for the four month period.

Total Number of Lunches Served in Middle Schools

Sept-Dec.	Free	Reduced Price	Paid	Total
2013	5,911,129	498,250	1,070,528	7,479,907
2014	7,390,725	194,346	729,735	8,314,806
Difference	+1,479,596	-303,904	-340,793	+834,899

Reimbursements Based on Total Lunches Served in Middle Schools, September – December 2013 (cumulative)

5,911,129 Free Lunches x \$3.1199 per meal = \$18,442,131
498,250 Reduced Price Lunches x \$2.8581 per meal = \$ 1,424,048
1,070,528 Paid Lunches x \$.4199 per meal = \$ 449,515
7,479,907 Total Lunches Total Reimbursement = **\$20,315,694**

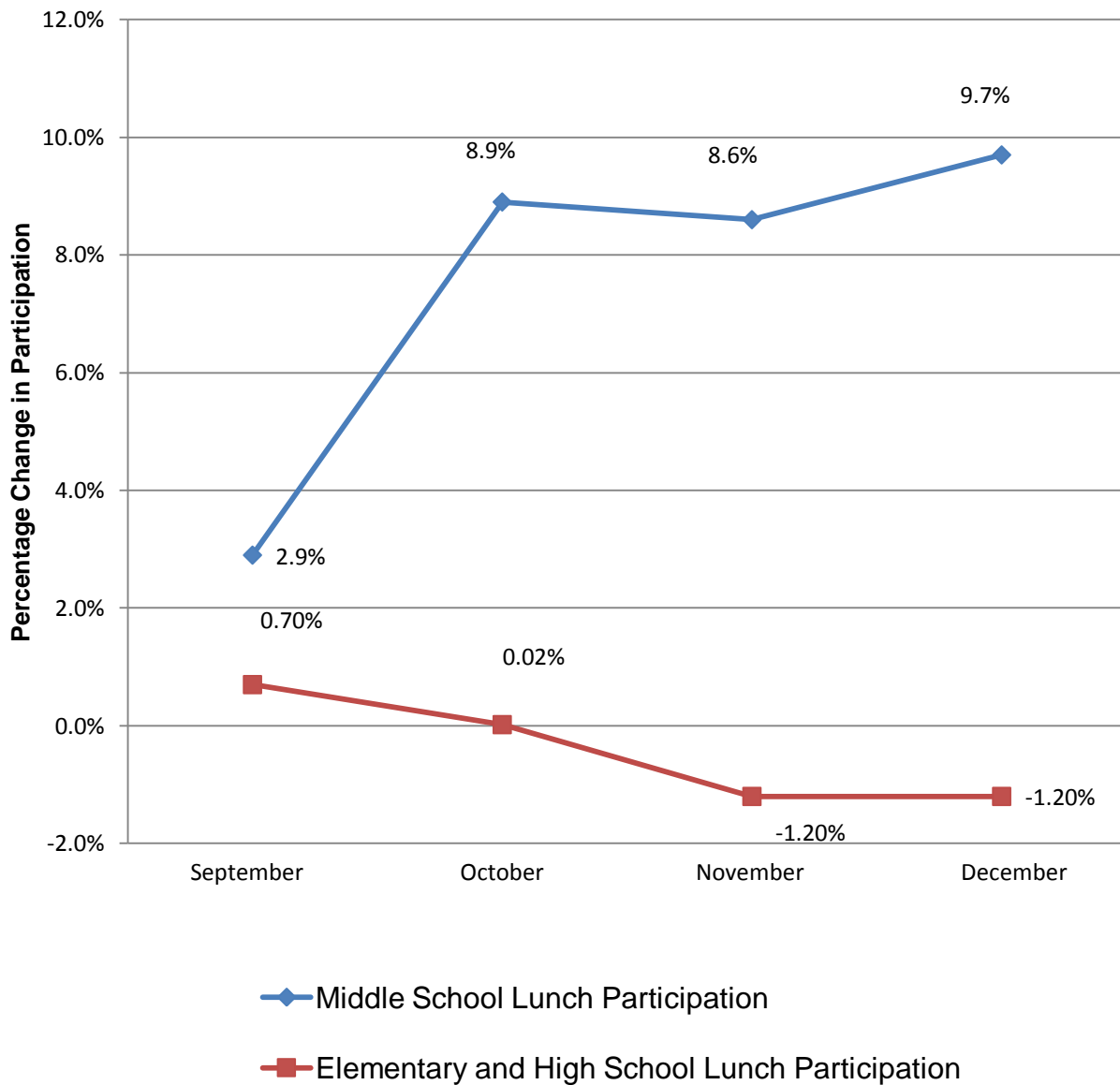
Total Lunch Meals Served in Middle Schools, September – December 2014 (cumulative)

7,390,725 Free Lunches x \$3.1199 per meal = \$23,058,322
194,346 Reduced Price Lunches x \$2.8581 per meal = \$ 555,460
729,735 Paid Lunches x \$.4199 per meal = \$ 306,416
8,314,806 Total Lunches Total Reimbursement = **\$23,920,198**

Increase in reimbursement September–December 2014 over 2013 = **\$3,604,504**.

(Reimbursement rates in effect 2014-2015: Free lunch = \$3.1199; Reduced Price lunch = \$2.8581; Paid lunch = \$.4199)

Lunch Participation Percentage Increases in 2014* Middle Schools Compared to Elementary and High Schools



* September - December 2014 compared to September - December 2013

LUNCH Comparisons by Month

Average Daily Participation (ADP)

MIDDLE/JR.HIGH DIVISION 2	Free (% of total meals)	Red. Price (% of total meals)	Paid (% of total meals)	Total
ADP Sept. 2013	86,909 (79.3%)	6,431 (5.9%)	16,235 (14.8%)	109,575
ADP Sept. 2014	100,540 (89.1%)	2,363 (2.1%)	9,901 (8.8%)	112,804
Difference	+13,631	-4,068	-6,334	+3,229 (+2.9%)
ADP Oct. 2013	86,360 (79.5%)	7,157 (6.6%)	15,122 (13.9%)	108,639
ADP Oct. 2014	104,905 (88.7%)	2,652 (2.2%)	10,722 (9.1%)	118,279
Difference	+18,545	-4,505	-4,400	+ 9,640 (+8.9%)
ADP Nov. 2013	82,061 (77.5%)	7,610 (7.2%)	16,259 (15.3%)	105,930
ADP Nov. 2014	101,315 (88%)	3,060 (2.7%)	10,706 (9.3%)	115,081
Difference	+19,254	-4,550	-5,553	+9,151 (+8.6%)
ADP Dec. 2013	83,960 (81%)	8,056 (7.8%)	11,577 (11.2%)	103,593
ADP Dec. 2014	100,441 (88.4%)	3,120 (2.7%)	10,071 (8.9%)	113,632
Difference	+16,481	-4,936	-1,506	+10,039 (+9.7%)

BALANCE OF STUDENTS	Free	Red. Price	Paid	Total
ADP Sept. 2013	413,451 (79.3%)	26,344 (5.1%)	81,508 (15.6%)	521,303
ADP Sept. 2014	420,200 (80%)	28,985 (5.5%)	75,907 (14.5%)	525,092
Difference	+6,749	+ 2,641	-5,601	+3,789 (+.7%)
ADP Oct. 2013	422,471 (79.8%)	30,943 (5.8%)	76,120 (14.4%)	529,534
ADP Oct. 2014	419,775 (79.3%)	33,121 (6.3%)	76,751 (14.5%)	529,647
Difference	- 2,696	+ 2,178	+ 631	+ 113 (+.02%)
ADP Nov. 2013	416,175 (78.9%)	34,409 (6.5%)	77,132 (14.6%)	527,716
ADP Nov. 2014	411,579 (79%)	35,788 (6.9%)	73,774 (14.2%)	521,141
Difference	-4,596	+ 1,379	-3,358	-6,575 (-1.2%)
ADP Dec. 2013	418,234 (79.5%)	35,775 (6.8%)	71,815 (13.7%)	525,824
ADP Dec. 2014	414,559 (79.8%)	37,657 (7.2%)	67,498 (13%)	519,714
Difference	-3,675	+ 1,882	-4,317	-6,110 (-1.2%)