

Dedham Public Schools

Food & Nutrition Services





Introduction

As the food service director for Dedham Public Schools for over 21 years, it has been my mission to offer a wide variety of delicious and nutritious meals to children.

The past two years has been a roller coaster ride for the food service staff and the department overall. We are looking forward to getting back to “normal”, and putting our focus - once again - into providing in-school, healthy, delicious, and nutritious meal choices for students.



NUTRITION

- School lunches must meet meal patterns and nutrition standards based on the National School Lunch Program Guidelines.
- These guidelines set specific calorie limits for age appropriate meals in addition to the gradual reduction of sodium levels and the increase of whole-grains as well as an overall increase in the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables that are offered.
- The materials provided include a cheat sheet to the meal program requirements, the summary of the vegetable subgroup requirement as well as the Smart Snack in schools guidelines.



FOOD SERVICE FINANCIALS

The Food Service Department is a Self-Funded Department. We have a revolving account, separate from the school operating budget, which all funds are deposited into and expenditures are paid out of.

Revenue

- Student meal payments
- Reimbursements for complete meals served
- A la carte sales
- Catering Fees

Expenditures

- Equipment and Equipment Repair- on average 4%
- Labor – on average 42%
- Food and Beverage- on average 42%
- Paper- on average 5%
- Other- on average 7%
 - Other includes- Service Contracts, Technology Systems, Uniforms, Meals Tax, Collaborative Fees, Sanitation Service Company and Office Supplies

Annual Budget Range

- 2 to 2.25 million
- Receive and spend this range annually

SCHOOL MEAL REIMBURSEMENT RATES

Federal Reimbursement Rates

National School Lunch Program

Federal reimbursement rates are effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The performance-based cash reimbursement is \$.07 (7 cents) per lunch meal for the 2021-2022 school year.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM		
Lunch Category	60% or More(High Lunch)	Less Than 60% (Low Lunch)
Paid	0.37	0.35
Reduced-Price	3.28	3.26
Free	3.68	3.66
SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM		
Paid	0.33	0.33
Reduced-Price	2.05	1.67
Free	2.35	1.97

FREE MEALS IN SCHOOL

- Congress voted to approve an omnibus that did not include funding for extending the child nutrition program waivers. These waivers are what have allowed us to provide free meals to all students for the past 2 years or so.
- Start charging those students who don't qualify for free meals beginning June 30th, 2022
- Currently, there is a bill in Massachusetts called "An Act Relative to Universal School Meals," which would allow districts in MA to continue with free meals for all students indefinitely
- Letter of support from the Dedham Superintendent and School Committee

Financial Impact for Families

Meal Prices

- **Lunch**
 - High School \$3.75
 - Middle School \$3.50
 - Elementary Schools \$3.25
- **Breakfast**
 - High School \$2.00
 - Middle School \$2.00
 - Elementary Schools \$1.75

Weekly expense to purchase meals

- High School Student- Purchases Breakfast and Lunch at School
 - Lunch \$18.75
 - Breakfast \$10.00
 - **Weekly Expense \$28.75**

Qualifying For Free or Reduced Price Meals

FREE MEALS				REDUCED MEALS			
Household Size	Year	Month	Week	Year	Month	Week	
3	\$28,548	\$2,379	\$549	\$40,626	\$3,386	\$782	
4	\$34,450	\$2,871	\$663	\$49,025	\$4,086	\$943	
5	\$40,352	\$3,363	\$776	\$57,424	\$4,786	\$2,393	

- There are many others who desperately need this help but will not be eligible as their income is marginally above the qualification line – a line that is not keeping up with current inflationary increases
- Despite our best efforts to eliminate any stigma associated with free/reduced lunch eligibility, there will be families who qualify but elect not to participate.

Student Meal Debt

New Meal Debt Regulations

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Cannot address a student's negative balance in school and must continue to serve students a meal regardless of their negative balance
- Meal debt will need to be repaid to the food service revolving account which, unless other funding sources are established, will come from the school department operating budget?



WELLNESS POLICY

- School wellness committee Reboot- comprised of parents, teachers, school staff, students, and community members.
- The group focuses on both the health and well-being of everyone in schools and the community. The wellness committee is also responsible for assessing the wellness policy, monitoring goals, and setting action items.
- In Massachusetts, the wellness committee must meet at least 4 times per year (or quarterly) and meeting minutes or an agenda must be made available to the public. The committee should also provide annual updates to both the superintendent and the school committee on goals and objectives for the upcoming year.
- A dedicated, multidisciplinary wellness committee is vital to school wellness success. To learn more about building a wellness committee, check out [the https://massschoolwellness.org/local-wellness-policy/](https://massschoolwellness.org/local-wellness-policy/).

USDA FOOD BOXES

Distributed over 10,000 USDA Produce and Meat boxes to Families in Dedham



Up to 1000 students per day picking up both Breakfast and Lunch for Seven Days

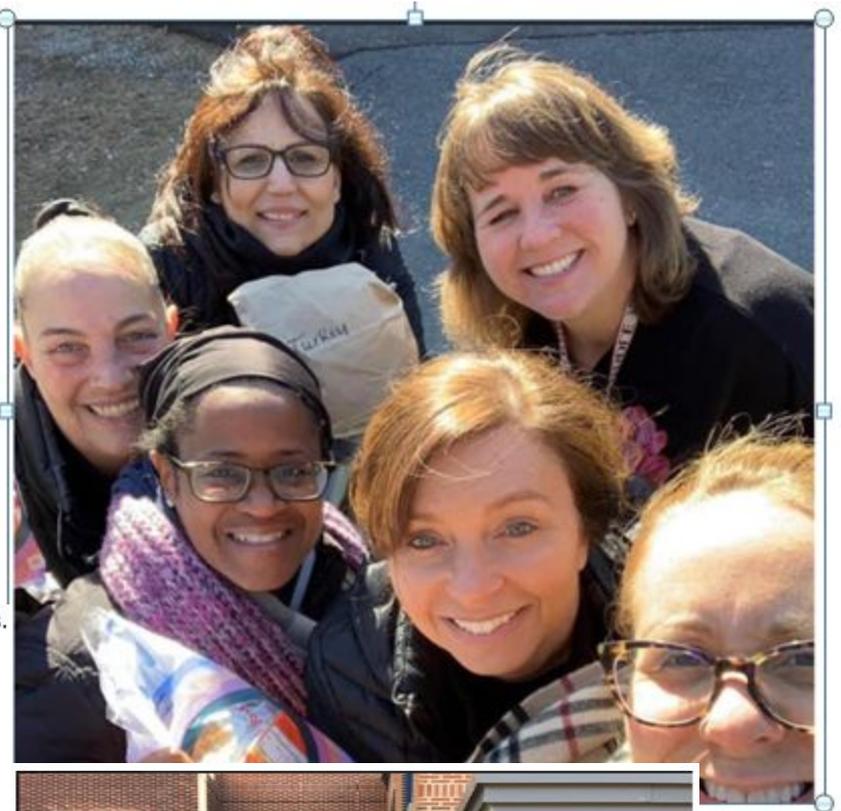


SPEED BUMP is an Understatement





Delivery Boxes to go home each week to families that were unable to pick up meals.
Steve Traister, The Athletic Director, personally delivered over 50,000 meals



THANK YOU!!!



- **A Big THANK YOU!!!**
- To everyone who supported the food service staff and our department through this unprecedented pandemic. We truly could not have done it without the entire Dedham community coming together.
- Superintendent Welch and his unbelievable support set the tone for the rest for the district. The teachers, principals, custodians, maintenance staff and entire Dedham community came together to make sure our children/students of Dedham were provided the meals they needed to keep them nourished and ready to learn.