

August 6, 2021

Dear Principals,

We appreciate the support Nutrition Services has received from each of you over the past year with the many challenges we have all faced during the pandemic. As we start a new school year, we want to remind you that USDA has extended the Nationwide COVID waivers related to meal service through June 2022 which allows **all students to eat a FREE breakfast and lunch each school day!**

Our top priority always is to provide safe, nutritious meals to the students throughout Granite School District. However, as we start this new year, we are facing some significant staffing and supply shortages amidst an ever-changing environment due to the ongoing pandemic. We want to give you a heads-up to some necessary changes our department will be making:

- **Menu Choices and Meal Service**

- Reduced number of entrée items will be offered each day
 - This will help ensure meals get served and help with supply shortages.
- Staff will be using check mark sheets at the point-of-service to record the number of meals served.
 - Eliminating the requirement for students to enter their pin number or scan their ID card will move students through the line faster and help with our staffing shortages.
- Maintain a reasonable lunch block while being cognizant of social distancing and sanitizing protocols.
- Menus are subject to last minute changes due to national supply issues.
 - The supply chain is broken due to nationwide unemployment in manufacturing, transportation, and warehouse support.
 - We are doing everything in our power to alleviate some of these shortages.
- Students with special dietary needs will receive their meal accommodations starting on the first day of school and throughout the year regardless of staffing or menu change issues

- **Salad bars or partial self-service aspects will be added back into line**

- Salad bars offer student choice and can contribute to less waste since most students will eat what they choose.
- Salad bars will also help with our staffing by reducing the amount of time it takes to package everything in grab-and-go containers.
- The allowance and safety of using salad bars was confirmed with Salt Lake County Health Department based on scientific evidence that COVID is not a food borne illness. FDA has indicated that "Currently there is no evidence of food or food packaging being associated with transmission of COVID-19."
- Our staff will be provided the specific instructions for maintaining sanitization when using salad bars.

- **Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC)**

- HB 222 legislation requires all schools offering lunch on the National School Lunch Program will have to offer a breakfast program before the end of this school year.

- Coordinators will be reaching out to you during the year to assist in getting these programs started.
 - HB 222 legislation also requires any school sites with a free and reduced percentage of 30% or more to implement an alternate breakfast model such as BIC over the next three years. We will be incrementally establishing breakfast programs at these school sites.
 - School sites already operating BIC will be transitioning to a grab and go meal service through the cafeteria to help with our limited staffing and lessen the administrative burden on teachers.
- **After School Snack and/or Dinner Programs**
 - After school snack and dinner programs will begin service after September 7.
 - Any school site wanting to add a new afterschool snack or dinner program please reach out to our office.
- **Pandemic EBT (P-EBT):** SNAP benefits provided to free/reduced price qualifying students to assist households in the purchase of groceries.
 - This COVID relief act has been providing students with EBT funds to qualifying students throughout the 2020-2021 school year and this past summer.
 - This benefit to students may continue through the current school year.
 - A student will need to be either free or reduced eligible to receive the benefit,
 - Encourage parents to apply so they do not miss out on these beneficial funds.
 - We can accept paper applications (you should have received them already) or parents may apply at <https://www.myschoolapps.com/>
- **Adult meals and second meals:**
 - Any adult who physically works in the cafeteria during lunch service is considered a program adult by regulations and may receive a meal free of charge. They can be cleaning tables, supervising students, monitoring salad bars, completing our tick sheets.
 - Other adult meals for staff or parents/visitors must be purchased.
 - Purchased adult meals require the same portion sizes provided to students.
 - Students are allowed one meal at breakfast and one meal at lunch. Any additional meals will be charged the adult meal price and the student must have money in their account.

Our plans will continually be adjusted throughout the year as we are able to hire more staff and upon the release of any new COVID safety measures. We are working hard to let you know ahead of time any new changes you can expect from Nutrition Services.

Thank you again for your support and - despite these challenges - we are excited to serve students in the new school year! If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to our office to discuss.

Sincerely,

Dana Adams

Director of Child Nutrition
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