

## What will School Lunch look like for Parent Volunteers?

As you may know, the State of California has mandated Universal Meals this school year. This means all students enrolled in public/charter schools must be offered a breakfast and lunch at no charge. In order to receive funding for these meals, the district is participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). The district has chosen Sodexo as their Food Service Management Company (FSMC), and we are responsible for creating, menuing, purchasing, preparing and serving meals that follow the guidelines of these programs.

### With all these new changes, can parents still volunteer?

**YES!** You can still volunteer for hot lunch, and we look forward to it. You may help the students find their ID card, help them choose their required ½ cup fruit or veggie on the salad bar, help them move through line, plate the meals and help with milk. If you volunteer consistently every week, we are happy to train you on the meal pattern so you may help check out/scan cards.

We are looking forward to 2-4 volunteers per lunch and 1-2 at snack recess at the elementary schools , and 4-6 for intermediate grades for lunch, and 2-4 for snack recess.

### What are some of the guidelines volunteers need to know?

**Preorders**-a thing of the past, kids come in and choose what they want. Menus are posted on the website. Kids eat with their eyes.

**Breakfast**-For the first few weeks of school, we are offering a grab and go breakfast. TK and K may arrive before school to get breakfast, and **depending on your school**, older students may pick up breakfast “before the bell” or during snack recess. We would love to have volunteers at the snack recess/“Second Chance” breakfast.

Students will pick up their cards (Elementary only) and must take a minimum of ½ c fruit for breakfast, and we offer all whole grain items, 100% fruit juice, fresh fruit, and 1% plain and fat free chocolate milk. Each student must take three equivalent items (this is where it gets complicated...) such as an apple, milk and cereal or a bagel, juice and a banana. You may refer to the menu posted on the website and ask a Sodexo staff member any questions you may have. Our job will be to ensure each child gets a nutritious, reimbursable breakfast.

**Lunch**-Students will pick up their cards (Elementary only) and hit the salad bar for their required 1/2c fruit or veggie. They must take three “components” out of the four we offer. Each entrée we serve counts as two (such as pizza-counts for whole grain and protein-meat/meat alternate). If a student intends to get an entrée salad, they can bypass the salad bar.

**Can we still scan the cards?** We have to follow guidelines on counting and claiming meals for reimbursement, so only those trained on the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program can verify the reimbursable meal and check the student out. If you volunteer consistently every week, we are happy to train you on the meal pattern so you may help check out/scan cards. We can train volunteers in September, after everyone gets a good feel for how the program works. We do appreciate volunteers collecting and organizing the cards for the next meal!

**Speaking of cards...**we are working to have Titan, the new Point of Sale system operational very soon. It's like Boonli or Mealtime, but no preorders. This software will allow parents to view the menus online and it will have allergen information. Parents can see when their student receives a meal, too. Sodexo and the district are working together to have temporary cards for EVERY student on the first day of school. Students in grades 6-8 need their student ID number and will enter that at the POS. We can check if the current cards will scan into Titan. For the first week or so, we may collect cards at the end of the line, verify the meal and check the students off the roster.

**Food Safety** -All you need to do is arrive 15 minutes before mealtime, wear closed toed shoes, and tie hair back. You already know to wash your hands and wear gloves while serving. The new stuff is to follow the serving sizes and menu, and we'll help you be aware of students with meal accommodations.

**Serving meals**-it is our intention to have adequate staffing to provide meals to the kids. Depending on participation, we may experience more or less students than planned. 2-3 volunteers should do it, as our staffing pattern is to have at least one Sodexo employee plating and serving and one checking out. Volunteers assisting in service will indeed make the lines move faster, which will encourage participation. Other changes include no extra meals, no double portions...hungry kids can go back to the salad bar. Federal funds used to purchase these meals may not be used outside of one of each meal per student under 18 years of age per day. (Adult meals for purchase coming soon, though!)

The NSLP started in June of 1946 and has come a long way. Please note that about 99% of schools in California currently participate in the NSLP and SBP. We know this is new to you and the students, but please know that Sodexo and school districts across the country serve students thousands of meals every day. It will be a bumpy start, but our goal is to serve a nutritious meal to every student so they can grow, learn and be happy. For those students who may not be able to buy lunch every day, this program ensures that every student is entitled to a free breakfast and lunch as part of their school day with no questions asked, no labels based on income and no judgement. We hope you will support this program and encourage everyone to join us for breakfast and lunch.

Thank you!

Your Sodexo and District Food Service Team