



COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 30

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Resolution #125

Resolution in Support of Free and Healthy School Lunch for All NYC Public School Students

WHEREAS, federal law, though Title I, allows New York City to make healthy school lunches universally free for public school students; and

WHEREAS, New York City is not taking advantage of the great opportunity in making healthy school lunches universally free for every public school student; and

WHEREAS, the need for universally free school lunches is clear; and

WHEREAS, one in every four New York City children lives in a home that lacks enough food; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of childhood hunger are dire: hunger negatively impacts children's learning and health; and

WHEREAS, school meals are a critical tool in the fight against hunger; and

WHEREAS, in 2013*, 250,000 out of 780,000 students eligible for free or reduced price meals did not participate in the subsidized school lunch program and many more students are above income eligibility for free or reduced priced lunch, yet their families are struggling to make ends meet; and

WHEREAS, an astonishing 68 percent of New York City's 1.1 million public school children have family incomes low enough to be eligible for free school lunch (below \$26,000 for a household of three) and 75% have incomes that qualify them for either free or reduced priced meals; and

WHEREAS, some income-eligible children are not enrolled in the free or reduced-price lunch program because their parents do not submit the paperwork. Many of these parents are concerned about sharing personal financial information, or do not know about the program; and

WHEREAS, making lunch universally free to all students eliminates many barriers and ensures all New York City public school children have access to a healthy lunch; and

WHEREAS, students must be well-nourished to learn; and

WHEREAS, universal free school lunch is currently only offered to students in stand-alone middle schools; and

WHEREAS, Community District Education Council 30 believes that New York City should take advantage of all the federal options available to provide free meals, and that the city should make the small investment needed so that no student has to pay for a meal; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Community District Education Council 30 wants to ensure that more children eat healthy school meals by making them free for all, regardless of income.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community District Education Council 30 calls upon Mayor deBlasio to make school lunch free for all students irrespective of the income levels of their parents.

VOTED AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED: MARCH 13, 2017