



P.O. BOX AA ♦ MILLBROOK, NEW YORK 12545

845-677-4200 EXT 1100

FAX: 845-677-4206

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 2023

Dear Millbrook Families and Community:

During 2020 and 2021, government aid provisions allowed our district and others across NY State, to provide universal meals for all students. Universal meals allowed our students to have access to free lunch and breakfast, regardless of their family's income and without applying on a need-basis. This form of relief ended with the beginning of the 2022 school year. NY State schools and NY State School Board Association ("NYSSBA") are advocating for the initiative for NY State to provide universal meals for all students across the state, regardless of income. Universal meals in schools would allow less food/status shaming among students, as all would have access to the same nutritional and balanced meals. This could also ease the financial burden on families during this challenging economic time.

The help advocate and support this initiative, please use the following link to send a brief e-letter or notice of support to the NY State legislators, informing them that you as a member and resident of this community, are in support of universal meals for all students: [Support Universal School Meals](#) (Note our district is in NYSSBA Area #9).

If you have a specific example that you can offer and would like to share how universal meals in the past, or free lunch, has helped or will help your family, you may share such experience in your letter to the legislator, which will go directly to their office.

If you have questions, you can reach out to the District Clerk, Cheryl Sprague.

Attached are articles related to the proposal for universal meals in New York State for your own review.

<https://www.news10.com/news/ny-lawmakers-push-for-free-meals-in-schools/>

<https://www.wbfo.org/education/2022-05-20/bill-proposes-free-school-breakfast-lunches-for-all-new-york-students>

<https://cnycentral.com/news/local/advocates-hold-rally-on-ny-capitol-steps-lobbying-for-free-school-meals-for-all-students>

<https://frac.salsalabs.org/digest30january2023?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=356f9438-b967-416c-8b89-1fc16adae148>

Sincerely,

MCSD Board of Education
