



The School Meal Program

A Brief History of the Federal School
Meal Program and Discussion on
Current Legislation

School Meal Program Overview

- Federally assisted meal program operating in over 101,000 schools throughout country
- Providing nutritionally balanced low cost or free meals to students 18 years or younger
- Reimbursement is given based on the number of free, reduced, & paid meals served daily that meet meal program nutrition standards
- Families fill out meal program applications annually to determine their meal eligibility (free, reduced, or paid)

School Meals History

- As early as the 1700's schools provided meals to students
- In 1936 Congress voted to provide aid through commodity donations from farmers.
- In 1946, President Harry Truman & Congress approved the National School Lunch Act to give the program permanent status and proper funding

"It is hereby declared..., as a measure of national security, to safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation's children and to encourage the domestic consumption of nutritious agricultural commodities and other food, by assisting the States, through grants-in aid and other means, in providing an adequate supply of food and other facilities for the establishment, maintenance, operation and expansion of nonprofit school lunch programs." President Harry S. Truman

School Meals History cont.

- In 1966 Child Nutrition Act adopted solidifying the importance of school meals
 - Breakfast added to program
 - Provided equipment funding
 - Moved oversight of program to Department of Agriculture

“In recognition of the demonstrated relationship between food and good nutrition and the capacity of children to develop and learn, ...it is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress that these efforts shall be extended, expanded, and strengthened...as a measure to safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation's children, and to encourage the domestic consumption of agricultural and other foods”



School Meals History cont.

- In 1970 Congress in response to lack of participation and availability of the meal programs, required all public schools to provide meals to free & reduced students.
- Eligibility guidelines & applications procedures developed and implemented to determine who qualified for free or reduced price meals
- Schools required to submit monthly counts
- Stipulated funding for Nutrition Education

School Meals History cont.

- Funding for equipment removed
- Removed specifications regarding spending i.e. originally supposed to spend 75% of reimbursement on food
- Nutritional guidelines and mandates established in early 1990's
- In 2004 with last Child Nutrition Reauthorization, additional requirements for Districts to adhere to i.e. Wellness Policies and HACCP were implemented

School Meals in Oakland

- \$14.5 million budget
- \$6.6 million for food
- Lunch served in all District schools and 2 Charters
- Breakfast served at 94 schools
- After School Snack at 75 schools
- Approximately 25,000 meals (Breakfast, Lunch, & Snack) served daily
- Salad Bars at 52 schools
- Harvest of the Month education program at 32 schools
- Guided by Wellness Policy Nutrition Administrative Regulations

What's New in the Cafeterias?

OUSD Nutrition Services has been making significant changes in the nutritional content and quality of the meals for several years.



Meal Program Funding

Main source of funding is Meal Reimbursement

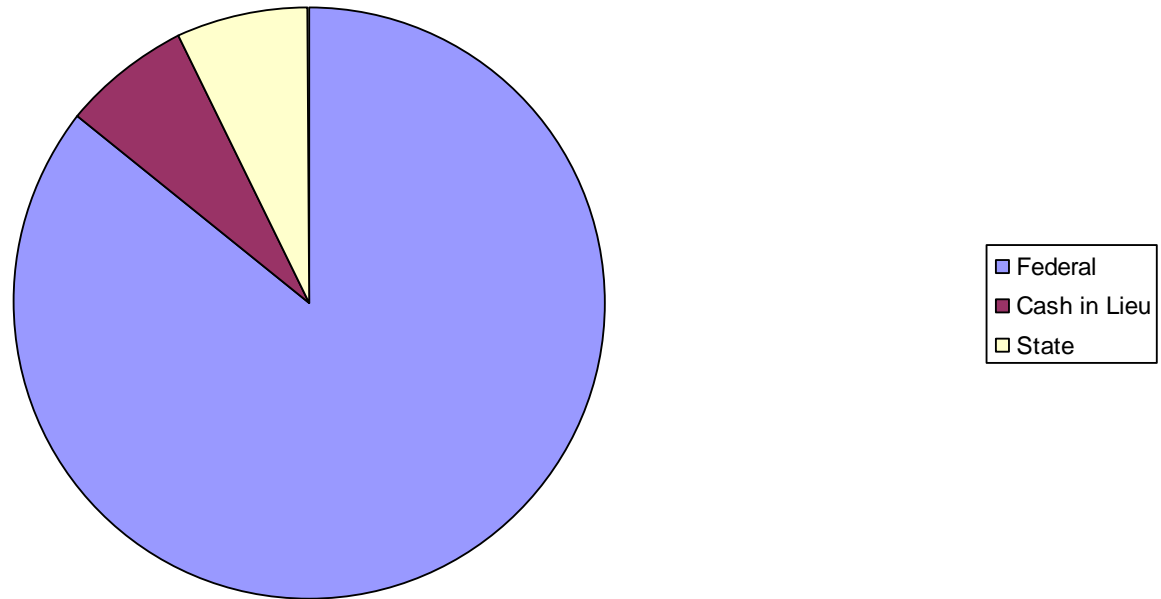
Free	\$3.01 per lunch
Reduced	\$2.61 per lunch
Paid	\$0.26 per lunch

This funding must pay for food, supply, labor, transportation, gas, utilities, & District provided services (payroll, budget assistance, etc.).

California receives the same funding as other states with exception of Alaska & Hawaii.

Funding Breakdown- Free Lunch

National School Lunch Reimbursement 2008-09 School Year



Federal Stimulus Money

- Grant funding for school meal equipment
- OUSD submitted grant proposal for \$1.3 million for 64 cafeterias.
- Requested funding for salad bars to closed campus equipment
- Expected notification date, June 30th



Child Nutrition Reauthorization 2009 (CNR 2009)

- Reauthorization occurs every 5 years
- Same bill covers WIC and Child Care Food Program
- Program is reviewed for changes, improvements, etc.
- Advocacy & lobbying groups (Food Policy Advocates, CGCS, School Nutrition Association, etc.) develop their “asks” around this bill
- Obama Administration has “pledged” \$1 billion for this bill for 2009-10 FY
- USDA has shared first CNR in many years with money tied to it.

OUSD Nutrition Services CNR Asks

- More money for better food
 - Increase in meal reimbursement rates
 - Elimination of reduced priced category
 - Change in eligibility & reimbursement guidelines to reflect different State's cost of living
 - Funding for equipment and facility upgrades
 - Staff training funds
 - Extend commodity funding to breakfast
 - Increase reimbursement for snack programs

OUSD CNR Asks cont.

- Increase access to program
- Update & enforce Nutrition Guidelines including those for fundraising
- Changes in procurement rules i.e. local sourcing
- Simplify paperwork requirements including family application process
- Support Nutrition Education in the classroom

Who to talk to??

- Representative Barbara Lee
- Representative George Miller (D-CA)
 - Rep. Miller is Chair of House Education Committee. His staff will write House version of the bill.



Update on AB 95

- As of May 29, 2009 AB 95 is held in Education Committee “under submission”