

Providence School Board

RESOLUTION: Quality Lunch for All Students in Providence Public Schools

Whereas, the Providence Public Schools (PPS) recognize the vital role that nutrition plays in supporting students' overall health, well-being, and academic success; and

Whereas, access to nutritious meals is a fundamental right and should not be a barrier to any student's ability to learn; and

Whereas, providing free and quality lunch for all students promotes equity, reduces stigma, and ensures that every student has access to nutritious food regardless of their socioeconomic status; and

Whereas, it is imperative to ensure that all students receive enough food to meet their nutritional needs and support their growth and development;

Therefore, be it resolved by the Providence School Board that the Providence Public Schools hereby commits to the following principles and actions:

1. **Free Lunch for All Students:** PPS will provide free lunch to all students, regardless of their eligibility for free or reduced-price meals under federal guidelines. This ensures that no student goes hungry or faces stigma based on their family's income level.
2. **Quality and Nutritious Meals:** PPS will prioritize offering meals of higher quality, ensuring they are both nutritious and enjoyable for students while providing enough food to meet their needs. These meals will meet or surpass national dietary guidelines, featuring a diverse array of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and low-fat dairy choices. Our aim is to ensure that students not only receive nourishment for optimal health and well-being but also have a satisfying dining experience.
3. **Cultural Sensitivity and Inclusivity:** PPS will ensure that meals are culturally sensitive and inclusive, taking into account the diverse dietary preferences and food traditions of the student population.
4. **Sufficient Portions:** PPS will ensure that all students receive sufficient portions of food to meet their nutritional needs and support their growth and development. No student will be denied seconds or additional food if they are still hungry.
5. **Promotion of Healthy Eating Habits:** PPS will incorporate nutrition education and promote healthy eating habits as part of the school curriculum and extracurricular activities to empower students to make informed choices about their diet and lifestyle.
6. **Collaboration with Community Partners:** PPS will collaborate with community organizations, local businesses, and government agencies to enhance the quality and variety of meals served to students and explore innovative approaches to addressing food insecurity.

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7. Continuous Evaluation and Improvement: PPS will regularly evaluate the effectiveness of its meal programs through feedback from students, parents, and staff, as well as nutritional assessments and participation data. Any necessary improvements or adjustments will be made to ensure that the needs of all students are met.
8. Equitable Access and Distribution: PPS will ensure equitable access to free lunch for all students, including those with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness or housing instability.
9. Transparent Communication: PPS will communicate openly and transparently with students, parents, staff, and the community about its commitment to providing free and quality lunch for all students and seek input and feedback on ways to improve the program.
10. Budget Allocation: PPS will allocate sufficient resources in its budget to support the provision of free and quality lunch for all students, prioritizing the health and well-being of the school community.

This resolution shall be communicated widely within the PPS community and implemented with diligence, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to ensuring that every student has access to nutritious food, fostering a healthy and supportive learning environment for all.

Presented by Ty'Relle Stephens