Fueling up with School Lunch

The National School Lunch Program
Guarantees that millions of low-income children receive a healthy lunch during their school day

Any traditional public, public charter, or nonprofit private school can participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Public or nonprofit private residential child care institutions can also participate!

Thanks to the D.C. Healthy Schools Act, the copay for students qualifying for reduced priced lunch was eliminated. School meals are filled with fresh produce, whole grains, and lean protein, and local produce is used whenever possible.

During School Year 2017-2018

9,269,730
The total number of lunches served in the District during SY17-18

$25,721,837
The amount D.C. schools received in reimbursements for the National School Lunch Program during SY17-18

51,499
The total number of children in the District that participate in the National School Lunch Program in the District in SY17-18

166
The total number of schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), where all students eat lunch for free.

23.3%
The number of households with children in D.C. that experience food hardship. This is the fourth highest in the nation.

D.C. Hunger Solutions Can Help By

Advocating for policy improvements to make school meals work for low-income families and improve meal quality;

Conducting outreach to increase participation in school meals;

Assist in applying for the Community Eligibility Provision, if you are eligible;

Promoting the Healthy Schools Act;

Implementing best practices to improve meal quality and meal participation.

*FRAC Food Hardship Report, September 2016

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