



**Department of
Education**

Joel I. Klein
Chancellor

Kathleen Grimm
Deputy Chancellor

September, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to tell you about a federal program that could save your family more than \$250 per year for each of your children while providing your child with nutritious and delicious meals. The program is the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and it provides free and reduced-price school lunches to those whose household income is within certain guidelines. Experts agree that students who eat nutritional meals are better prepared to learn.

Children in households that meet the federal income guidelines will be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. To determine your child's eligibility a parent or guardian must complete and submit a School Meals Application. Applications are distributed in schools at the beginning of the school year and reviewed when returned. For your convenience, you also may go online to ACCESS NYC at www.nyc.gov/accessnyc to complete an application for all school-aged children in your family.

Students whose families do not submit an application are expected to pay the full price of \$1.50 per meal for every lunch served to them in our schools. Prior to an application being submitted, a student's lunch price status carries over from the previous school year. A student, who was classified as having to pay full price for lunch last year, must pay \$1.50 for lunch at school opening even if the student's family has had an economic setback as a result of the national recession. We, therefore, urge all families to submit a new School Meals Application immediately so their children are charged meal prices consistent with their economic situation. Furthermore, the deadline for submission of the form for the 2009/2010 school year is October 16, 2009. After that date, all children who fail to submit an application will have to pay full price for their lunches regardless of what their status indicated for the 2008/2009 school year.

If you would like assistance in completing the School Meals Application or if you need a new application, please contact your school's parent coordinator or call the Office of SchoolFood Help Desk at (718) 707-4400. Many principals appoint a staff member to be the school's specialist on issues concerning the NSLP program.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Grimm