

Dear Merrimack Families~

At last week's meeting of the Merrimack School Board we shared the good news that our district's school lunch program will continue to be able to provide free lunches to Merrimack students due to the extension of waivers requested by school districts across the country and finally agreed to by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**This is what that means for our families:**

- The Merrimack School Lunch Program will offer a free meal to all students in accordance with the USDA guidance.
- The meal will be free until December 31, 2020 or until funding runs out.
- There will be one free meal per student.
- Free meals will not affect the balance of your student's account.
- Any funds in the student account (**My School Bucks**) can be used to purchase second meals or any ala carte and snack items.
- Second meals will be charged at the regular rate.
- Parents can still access their student accounts through My School Bucks.

**The waiver allows the district to**

- Permit meals to be served outside of the typically-required group settings and meal times;
- Waive meal pattern requirements as necessary; and
- Allow parents and guardians to pick-up meals for their children.

Please be assured that the District will monitor funding availability within the rules set up to do so by USDA. We will work with the Merrimack School Board to review options prior to that event occurring in order to advise our families about alternatives when that program ends. At no time will our school lunch program be suspended or interrupted regardless of federal funding availability.

If you have any questions concerning this positive development, your *My School Bucks* account, or if you need additional information regarding Food Services, please reach out to Director Dave Dziki at David/ [Dziki@sau26.org](mailto:Dziki@sau26.org) or call 424-6226.

Thank you.

Mark McLaughlin  
Superintendent