



RIDGEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

90 East Ridge Rd., Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877
Phone: 203-894-5550 Fax: 203- 431-2811

Jill M. Browne
Director of Finance

News Regarding Food Service for the 2022-23 School Year

Dear Ridgefield Families,

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has advised us that federal funds have been allocated to the CSDE for the Free School Meals for Children grant. The intent of these funds is to assist households through School Food Authorities (SFAs) continuing to provide school meals at no cost to students for as long as possible in school year 2022-23 as they transition back to operating the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in 2022-23 are eligible for funding, so **our K-8 schools will participate** (the high school is not eligible to receive free meals in the 2022-23 school year).

An estimate of \$436,864 has been allocated to Ridgefield schools -- this funding will support **free lunches for all students in grades K-8 until funds are depleted**. **All schools will continue to collect Free & Reduced Lunch applications during this extended time period, to ease the transition back to pre-pandemic meal service operations.**

The Business Office will work closely with our Food Service Management Company to monitor meal counts and CSDE reimbursements to allow for ample time to communicate with families regarding the program's end.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the Free School Meals for Children grant, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school, or the District Business Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill M. Browne".

Jill M. Browne, M.Ed., M.P.A.
Ridgefield Public Schools
Director of Finance
jbrowne@ridgefieldps.net