

Minidoka School District #331

Nutrition Department Monthly Report – July

**Michael Harris, Child Nutrition Director Fueling
Healthy Futures**

Executive Snapshot (July)

- **Meals Served: 45,822 total (22,911 breakfasts | 22,911 lunches)**
 - **Total Program Reimbursements: \$ 201,559.52**
 - **Food & Labor Costs: \$135,472.33**
 - **Program Status:** Summer Feeding Program finished with strong community participation
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Meal Service & Financial Performance

The Nutrition Department had a successful end to the summer meal program, serving **22,911** breakfasts and **22,911** lunches during the month of June, for a total of **45,822** meals. The department received **\$201,559.52** in federal reimbursements, while total food and labor expenses were **\$135,472.33**. These results reflect the continued commitment of our staff to providing nutritious meals while maintaining responsible fiscal management.

Summer Feeding Program

Our new 7-day meal box program has been extremely well received by families throughout the district. The convenience of providing an entire week's worth of breakfasts and lunches in one distribution has generated overwhelmingly positive feedback. Families have expressed appreciation for the flexibility the program offers, reducing transportation barriers and ensuring children have consistent access to nutritious meals throughout the week. We are encouraged by the response and will continue evaluating participation and feedback as we work to strengthen and expand the program in future years.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

We have officially been approved from the Idaho State Department of Education for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). This is a huge financial burden taken off our students and families. This will also erase the stigma that often comes with some kids being free and others not. All students are now created equal and no one has to feel embarrassed or ashamed about their home situation, which happens a lot more than we as directors and leaders realize. With this provision we have not eliminated the negative balances. We are still expecting families to take care of these balances before their student graduates. The advantage now is that families can slowly pay those balances down without fear of their student charging it right back up.

District Food Pantry

Development of the district food pantry will now start to come back into focus as we start out the school year. We are grateful to the Rupert Elks Lodge for their generous donation of a walk-in refrigeration unit, which will become a key component of the pantry's operations. In addition, the district has been approved to receive the shipping containers that will serve as the pantry facility. Construction and development will become a priority as we transition back into the school year, and we look forward to bringing this valuable resource online to better serve students and families experiencing food insecurity.

As always the Nutrition Department remains committed to our mission of Fueling Healthy Futures by ensuring every student has access to healthy, nutritious meals both during the school day and beyond.