

Minidoka School District #331

Nutrition & Foodservice Department

Monthly Board Report – August

Michael Harris, Child Nutrition Director

Fueling Healthy Futures

Executive Snapshot

- **Total Meals Served:** 16,672
- **Breakfasts:** 3,772
- **Lunches:** 12,900
- **Breakfast & Lunch Reimbursement:** \$44,588.31
- **Afterschool Suppers Served:** 424
- **Afterschool Reimbursement:** \$2,191.21
- **Total August Reimbursements:** \$46,779.52

August represented the beginning of a significant new chapter for the Nutrition Department as we entered our first school year operating under the **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)**. With school beginning near the end of the month, August provided only a short period of meal service; however, we are already seeing a noticeable increase in participation. Rupert Elementary is currently serving meals to nearly **93% of its student population**, and participation has increased significantly at our other schools as well. Over the coming weeks, we will closely monitor participation as numbers begin to stabilize. This data will be especially important for forecasting food purchases, controlling waste, managing inventory, and ensuring our kitchens are adequately prepared for the increased demand created by CEP.

During August, the department served **3,772 breakfasts and 12,900 lunches**, for a total of **16,672 student meals** and \$44,588.31 in breakfast and lunch reimbursements. Our Afterschool Program also provided **424 supper meals**, generating an additional \$2,191.21 in reimbursement. Combined, these programs generated **\$46,779.52 in reimbursements** during the shortened month. As we move into our first full month of school, we expect September's numbers to provide a much clearer picture of the overall impact CEP will have on participation and department operations.

We have also introduced new food-bar concepts at the secondary level as part of our effort to make school meals more appealing and increase student participation. The response has been very positive so far, with the **Monday Ramen Bar** and **Tuesday Taco/Nacho Bar** emerging as student favorites. These concepts give students more choice and allow our staff to continue moving toward fresher, more engaging meal experiences. We will continue gathering feedback and adjusting menus based on participation, student preferences, food quality, and cost.

Another exciting development is that **all four of our elementary schools have once again received funding through the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)**. This program provides opportunities for students to experience a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, including items they may not normally encounter at home. Beyond providing a nutritious snack, FFVP gives us an opportunity to introduce students to new foods, expand their understanding of nutrition, and encourage healthy eating habits that can continue throughout their lives.

As we begin the new school year, our focus remains on building a Nutrition Department that is financially responsible while continuing to expand what we can provide for students and families. We are actively exploring grants, partnerships, reimbursements, and other funding opportunities that can strengthen our programs and bring additional resources into the district. CEP, FFVP, our afterschool meal programs, and our continued menu improvements are all pieces of a larger goal: removing barriers to nutritious food and making school nutrition a positive part of every student's educational experience. As a department, we remain committed to **Fueling Healthy Futures** for the students and families of Minidoka County School District.

