FOOD SERVICE

FEBRUARY 23, 2026

During the month of January, the Nutrition Department served 11,786 student breakfasts and 33,240 student lunches, reflecting continued strong participation in our meal programs. The department received $142,384 in federal reimbursements for breakfast and lunch service, along with $24,525 through the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) and $7,570 from our At-Risk Afterschool Program and daycare operations. These combined revenues support our ongoing efforts to provide consistent, high-quality nutrition services to students across the district.

The department also completed a state review of our CACFP program. Minor findings were identified, primarily related to gaps in documentation from prior administration. All corrective actions have been implemented, and procedural updates are now in place to ensure ongoing compliance. A follow-up review is scheduled for March 4th to confirm resolution. As we prepare for the upcoming summer feeding season, the department will participate in a collaborative planning and training meeting with regional nutrition directors on February 24th to strengthen program planning and implementation. Operationally, we maintained a 31% food cost for the month, which is below the national average, demonstrating strong fiscal oversight while continuing to seek further efficiencies. In addition, personnel adjustments at Minico High School have been made as part of our commitment to continuous improvement, operational stability, and enhanced service quality throughout the Nutrition Department.

The district's current total negative meal balance stands at $22,361.50. The breakdown by site is as follows: Acequia Elementary ($97.05), East Minico ($303.96), Heyburn Elementary ($1,083.94), Minico High School ($15,989.59), Mt. Harrison ($2,636.65), Rupert Elementary ($1,521.85), Paul Elementary ($3.25), DSC ($2.35), and West Minico ($723.06). The majority of the outstanding balance remains at Minico High School. Since implementing leadership changes at the high school, we have already seen progress, as the temporary manager has begun proactively communicating with families, resulting in some balances decreasing.

In more positive news, Minidoka School District has officially been accepted as a partner with the Idaho Food Bank to establish a district-operated food pantry. This partnership will allow us to provide supplemental food resources to students and families within our district boundaries, helping ensure that food insecurity is not a barrier when school meals are not available. Planning is underway to develop an organized, welcoming, and dignified distribution model for families.

Additionally, we are preparing to apply for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) district-wide following the April 1 data collection window. If approved, CEP would significantly reduce negative meal balances and relieve financial pressure on families by

allowing us to provide free meals to all students. Our goal remains clear: remove financial barriers and simply ensure that every child is fed.