September 25, 2025

Dear Ramblers Parents,

The State of Michigan's **universal free meal program** is in jeopardy. While the program has provided free meals for all students for the past two years, the Michigan legislature has not yet approved the new state budget. If funding isn't approved, the program will expire on **October 1**, and meals will no longer be free for all students.

To address this at a local level, the BCPS Board of Education has voted to use funds from the district's general fund to provide universal free meals for students from preschool through 12th grade until **October 31**. This will ensure that our students continue to receive the support they need while we await a decision from the state. This will cover one complete breakfast and one full lunch for all students. Ala Carte items or "extras" are still out of pocket for families just as they have been for the past two years.

We sincerely hope the state will pass the budget soon. However, if they don't, the Board will continue to make decisions about how to proceed on a month-by-month basis.

To prepare for a potential gap in state funding, we urge you to **apply for free or reduced-price meals** now. Please take a few minutes to complete and submit the form at the following link: <a href="https://bovnecity.familyportal.cloud/">https://bovnecity.familyportal.cloud/</a>

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Pat Little