

Intergovernmental Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 30, 2022 1:00 PM

BESC - Windows Cafeteria / Conference Room
(Floor 2)
501 N. Dixon St.
Portland, OR 97227

Agenda

- I. Introductions
- II. Child Nutrition Programs
- III. Committee Discussion on Potential Future Topics
- IV. Public Comment *To sign-up for public comment
email PublicComment@pps.net
or call 503-916-3741.
- V. Adjourn



Nutrition Services Update

Whitney Ellersick, MS, RDN

Senior Director, Nutrition Services

March 30, 2022





Agenda

- Current service levels to students and families
- Omnibus Bill Impact - End of USDA Waivers
- Impact to students, families, and Nutrition Services department
- Other Supports and Benefits for Families





What were we able to accomplish under the USDA waivers?

- Meals served so far this year:
 - >715,202 breakfasts
 - >2,110,656 lunches
- Grab and go, and multiple meals offered at one time
- Parent pick up
- Improved service line efficiency
 - Franklin 700+ lunches served in 20 minutes
- Increased participation and reduced stigma





Waivers ending June 10, 2022

Congress approved the Omnibus Bill March 10, which did not include USDA Child Nutrition Programs.

Following tremendous advocacy, ending with 700 school nutrition professionals being in DC, and over 130,000 letters of support sent in one day prior to the vote

What does this mean?





Impact to PPS Families

- Currently, all students across the district can receive a daily breakfast and lunch at no cost regardless of eligibility under a nationwide waiver.
- Starting in the 2022-23 school year, meal services will revert back to the standard meal counting and claiming based on eligibility - free, reduced and paid eligible meals.
- Families will need to complete meal benefit applications if they are not directly certified (SNAP, migrant, Title X, foster).
- Any schools approved for Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) will remain offering breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students.
 - CEP must be analyzed using data from April, notification to ODE must happen before June 30 and approval by ODE usually occurs in August.
- Students will need to memorize their student ID - type into the POS (cash register) when choosing or purchasing a school meal
- Will not be able to serve students in Online Learning Academy





Impact to Nutrition Services

- Funding will be reduced by 40%, with an average reimbursement falling from \$4.56 to \$2.91 per lunch for a free meal, \$0.33 for a paid eligible meal
- Price increases for all food, supplies and equipment continue
 - Forecasted to last into 2022-23 school year
- Increase in labor costs with planned increases in wages for FY23
- Retrain staff on cashiering, meal benefits and student meal accounts
- Oregon “No shaming law” in the first 1.5 years resulted in over \$330,000 unpaid meal debt
- Increased [meal price](#) proposal coming in the spring to the Board for approval





Nutrition Services Budget

- NS Department is financially independent of the general fund
- If we serve meals correctly, then we are reimbursed for each meal we serve at a flat rate (not reimbursed for costs)
- If we do not follow the rules and regulations, ODE/USDA may take fiscal action resulting in loss of funding or reimbursement
- The per meal reimbursement covers:
 - Food and supplies
 - Labor
 - Equipment (technology, oven, dishwasher, smallwares, etc)

Milk
\$0.21-25

**Food Budget
Total: \$1.52**

Veggies
\$0.25



Entrée
(grain + protein)
\$0.75

Fruit
\$0.27





Student Success Act

Initiated in 2020-2021 school year, allowed us to:

- Expand CEP from 13 schools in 2019-20, to 50 schools and programs in 2020-21
 - Re-elected the same 50 in 2021-22.
- Added a new income category specific to Oregon; Expanded Income Guideline (Oregon EIG)
 - Covers 185-300% of poverty (federal income guidelines)
- Breakfast After the Bell - will be required in 2022-23 to all schools with over 70% free/reduced





Other Supports or Expanded Benefits for Families

January 2022 - Oregon expanded the SNAP benefit eligibility; increased from 185% to 200% of poverty

Communication effort to notify all families of this opportunity including postcard to all households, notification to administrators through portal

Families eligible for SNAP are considered directly certified, impacting our ability to elect CEP, inform the district about Title 1 allocations, and allows families to receive other expanded benefits such as Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) more seamlessly.





Outlook for FY 2023

- Still opportunity for advocacy to encourage Congress to support Child Nutrition Programs
- Nutrition Services seeking input for outreach to families and communication strategies in order to best support our community
- While the Nutrition Services department has successfully been a breakeven operation since 2004, there is nationwide concern for financial hardship for all districts

