



Saranac Central School District

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Attention Saranac Families,

FOR THE UPCOMING 2022/23 SCHOOL YEAR MEALS WILL NO LONGER BE FREE FOR ALL STUDENTS! Over the previous 2+ school years, the federal government has provided a waiver that have allowed all schools to provide universal free meals. The government has then provided reimbursement to the Food Service Authority, Saranac Food Service Department, to balance the cost associated in providing those meals. The previously mentioned waiver expired on June 30, 2022.

There are some schools within our county that are still eligible for free meals. Saranac, however, is not one of them. To continue to qualify for universal free meals, Saranac would need to qualify for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

Who can participate in CEP?

- A single school district.
- A group of schools in a district.
- An individual school with 40% or more “identified students” (children eligible for free school meals who are identified by means other than an individual household application).
 - Identified students include:
 - Children directly certified for free school meals because their household participates in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and in certain instances, Medicaid.
 - Children certified for free school meals without an application because they are homeless or a runaway, migrant, in foster care, or participating in Head Start.

Saranac has never qualified for this program. Historically, our student body has been made up of 20-25% “identified students.” During the past two years we reached a point of 37%. We currently stand at 35% eligibility. To find out more about these benefits and how to apply visit: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/>

Filling out your free and reduced application is very important. This can qualify your family for free or reduced meals, and the information shared is confidential. There are two ways to fill out the application. Fill out a hard copy and mail it back or fill in your application using the Titan website.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact me at 518-565-5705 or idirolf@saranac.org

Sincerely,

Isaac Dirolf

School Foodservice Director

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