

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free School Meals Available to All North Colonie Students Beginning on December 1st

November 22, 2023 - Latham, NY - Beginning on Friday, December 1st, 2023, the North Colonie Central School District will be offering free meals to all students enrolled in the district. This includes one free meal at breakfast and one free meal at lunch.

The change comes after the United States Department of Agriculture expanded its Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), allowing North Colonie to qualify. Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, the state reimbursement rate to school districts for these meals also increased to cover the full cost, meaning it will come at no cost to parents, taxpayers or the school district itself.

“We are thrilled to learn that we have qualified for free meals under the new state and federal guidelines. Having the ability to provide free breakfast and lunch to all of our students will be life changing for some and certainly helpful to all others who wish to take advantage of the assistance,” said North Colonie Superintendent Kathleen Skeals. “It is vital for all students to have access to complete and nutritious meals that set them up to succeed in and out of the classroom on a daily basis. To be able to do that at no cost is an additional bonus. I’d like to thank our Director of Food Service, Lisa Ostrowski and our Assistant Director of Food Service, Alex Clements, for their hard work to ensure that all of the necessary steps were taken in order for us to begin offering free meals as soon as December 1st.”

North Colonie will be eligible to offer free breakfast and lunch to students for the next four years under the new guidelines. No action is required by individual students or families in order to be eligible.