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*Superintendent*

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## BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT 06405

203.488.7276 • Fax 203.315.3505

[www.branfordschools.org](http://www.branfordschools.org)

August 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian of Branford Public School Student(s),

The food service staff is busy preparing for the opening of schools! The school nutrition program is an essential part of the education system and, by providing good-tasting, nutritious meals in pleasant surroundings, we are supporting the learning environment and helping to teach students the value of good nutrition

The federal programs that have allowed us to provide breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students for the past two years are no longer available. While we continue to explore alternative sources of funding, there is a significant possibility that students will be required to pay for meals this year. Therefore, we recommend that you complete and submit the enclosed application for free and reduced-price meals if your family is at all near the income eligibility guidelines. If your child(ren) qualify for free meals, they will be free regardless of the District's meal funding situation. Similarly, if your family qualifies for reduced-price meals, at most you will only have to pay the non-subsidized portion. Your **applications are confidential** and only seen by one, trained person unless you appeal the decision.

If you have received a NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION for free or reduced-price meals, do not complete the application unless instructed to do so by the district. Free meal benefits are extended to all children in a household when directly certified. If any children in your household are not listed on your Notice of Direct Certification letter, please call 203-315-7806 for assistance.

If you would like to apply for Free and Reduced-price meals, **please complete, sign and return the yellow form** so that your eligibility can be determined. Information you provide on the application is confidential. **In order to maximize confidentiality, we are collecting all applications at the Board of Education Central Office, 185 Damascus Road, Branford, CT 06405. Please do not return the application to your child's school.**

Included in your packet are:

- 2022-2023 Application for Free and Reduced-price School Meals (Yellow form)
- Branford Public Schools Breakfast and Lunch Program and MySchoolBucks overview
- Board of Education Draft Meal Charging Policy
- Branford Public Schools calendar 2022-23 (also on [www.branfordschools.org](http://www.branfordschools.org))
- Frequently Asked Questions about Free and Reduced-Price School Meals
- Addendum C: Information on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Information about Connecticut's HUSKY child health insurance plans
- Information on Student Accident Insurance

If you have any questions, please contact Maria Cacace, Determining Official at (203) 315-7806. If your situation changes or you change your mind, you may apply any time during the school year.

Thank you,

*Hamlet M. Hernandez*

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