



UNIVERSAL FREE MEALS

EXPLANATION & BENEFITS

UFM Explained

- USFA defines **Universal Free Meals** as a model in which **every child** enrolled in a district would receive breakfast and lunch at no cost - **no application necessary**
- All meals would be federally reimbursed at the **"free" meal rate**
- Aside from a la carte purchases, there would be **no exchange of money** with students at the point of sale

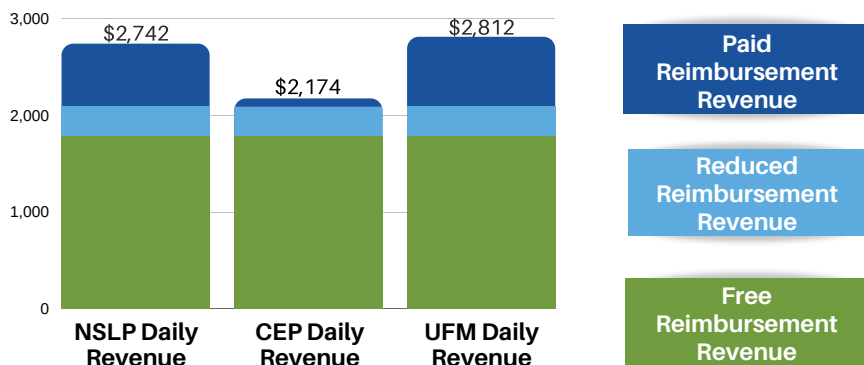
Benefits

- Ensures **ALL students** have access to healthy meals at school
- **Eliminates lunch shaming** and the **stigma** attached to participating in federal school meal programs
- **Reduces administrative burden** on districts
- Quality nutrition is an **essential tool** for academic success
- Universal free meals are a driver of **economic recovery**

By the Numbers

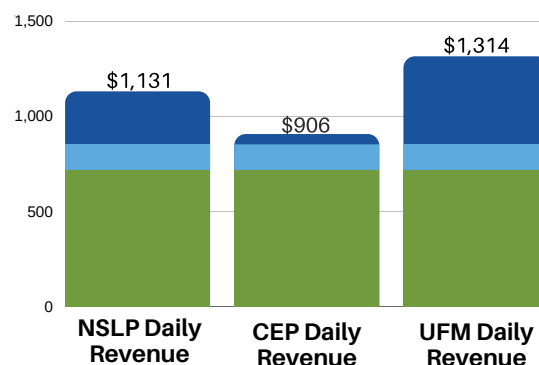
- **School A** is a high school of 2,723 students, with 48% qualifying for free & reduced meals
- **School B** is an elementary school of 798 students, with 50% qualifying for free & reduced meals
- Graphs below show School A and School B's **daily reimbursement revenue** under the NSLP, CEP and UFM models

School A



UFM provides **2.55% more revenue** over NSLP model and **29.35% more revenue** over CEP model on average for School A

School B



UFM provides **16.22% more revenue** over NSLP model and **44.97% more revenue** over CEP model on average for School B

Pandemic Child Hunger Prevention Act

July 30, 2020 | Support for Universal Free Meals

On Thursday, July 30, 2020, Representative Robert C. "Bobby" Scott of Virginia introduced the *Pandemic Child Hunger Prevention Act*, which would help prevent child hunger, support school meal programs and streamline access for families and schools during the pandemic. Under this legislation:



All students will temporarily be made eligible for free school meals during the 2020-2021 school year through the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

- Due to the flexibility granted to USDA under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, free school meals will be available to students during remote learning through “grab and go” or meal delivery.
- All school districts, including those operating off-site services, can serve all children without having to certify the eligibility of each individual child.



Anywhere in the country, schools and non-profit community partners can operate meal services, including off-site, under the Summer Food Service Programs (SFSP) and the Summer Seamless Option (SSO), where they can serve all children without having to certify the eligibility of each individual child.



Anywhere in the country, schools and non-profit community partners will be able to serve afterschool meals and snacks, under the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk Afterschool Program or the NSLP Afterschool Snack Program, without having to certify the eligibility of each individual child.



All Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) day care homes will be eligible for reimbursement at the Tier 1 level.