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Is your school ready to max out free/reduced lunch program enrollment? Check out these best practices.

<http://tumblr.com/xiwddeg0t>

3:55 PM Jul 27th via HoolSuite

I wonder if this school knows what their actual daily cost of lunch is?

<http://ow.ly/2eCGX>

2:32 PM Jul 21st via HoolSuite

An electronic POS system to track student lunch accounts is essential. It cost this district half a million dollars -

<http://ow.ly/24Vnv>

10:42 AM Jun 30th via HoolSuite

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Slow Economy Leads to Major Influx in Free and Reduced Applications

Our economic future is continuing to look grim. The financial collapse continues to gain momentum, and is not showing signs of slowing down in the near future. In such dire economic times, it is no wonder that we have suffered the worst job loss numbers since the 1970's.

Congress recently passed a resolution recognizing the link between healthy meals and learning, but as the recession worsens, millions of parents can no longer afford to give their kids \$2 or \$3 a day to eat meals at school. Lost jobs mean more families will become eligible for the free and reduced meal program, and many schools will likely be caught unprepared.



Schools in Montgomery County, Maryland are seeing 400 new applications for the program every month. "That's unheard of," Marla Kaplon with Montgomery County Public Schools said. "It's the highest percentage we've ever had here in Montgomery County."

The schools in Maryland are not alone. According to the School Nutrition Association, almost 8 in 10 school districts received more applications for free lunch so far this year. E.V.S.C. officials said they've seen a one percent increase of students on free and reduced lunches from last year. This number is expected only to grow. Many schools are unprepared to deal with the increasing flood of applications,

and face incurring substantial losses as they self-finance student meal costs in

Schools in Montgomery County Maryland are seeing 400 new applications for the program every month.

the wake of an overwhelming pile of unprocessed forms.

What can schools do to prepare?

The burdensome task of processing free or reduced school lunch applications is simultaneously time consuming, tedious, error prone and frustrating. Software developed specifically to streamline free and reduced meal application process, such as FSS F.O.R.M.S., can drastically cut the man-hour investment needed to process applications by hand. F.O.R.M.S. is an acronym for Free Or Reduced Meal Software, and is currently being used by hundreds of schools across the US.



If you would like to learn more about the software and its capabilities, we recommend that you contact FSS and set up a free web demonstration. Call 1-800-425-1425 or email sales@foodserve.com.

Tell Congress: Pass Child Nutrition Reauthorization Now

Time is running out for Congress to pass a robust Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill before the November elections. Now is the time to ask your Members of Congress to bring H.R. 5504 to the floor. The following checklist has a few suggestions to help push Child Nutrition Reauthorization:

- **Send an Action Alert** – Send an Action Alert to your Congressional representatives. Click below to send an email letter directly to your Member of Congress.

- **Call the White House and your Member of Congress** - It's easy to call the President or your Member of Congress. To reach the White House comments line, dial 202-456-1111. To contact your Member of Congress, dial the Congressional Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask to be connected to your Member of Congress. When you call, be sure to say: Our kids cannot afford to wait! Pass Child Nutrition Reauthorization, now! Please support H.R. 5504!

- **Schedule a Meeting with Your Member of Congress** – Don't just call your Member of Congress; schedule an appointment with him or her at their district office! Meeting face to face with your Congressional representative or their staff is an effective way of indicating your support for reauthorization. Click the link below to look up your Member of Congress.

<http://capwiz.com/asfsa/issues/alert/?alertid=1518516>

- **Sign SNA's Child Nutrition Reauthorization Petition** – SNA collected over 1,500 signatures from SNA members during ANC 2010 in Dallas. If you weren't able to sign the petition at ANC, you can now add your name online. Click the link below to read and sign the petition. You can also print off the letter and encourage SNA members to sign the petition at local chapter meetings.

<http://capwiz.com/asfsa/dbq/officials/>

- **Invite Your Member of Congress to Your Cafeteria** – Congress' August recess ends September 10, 2010. Now is the perfect time to invite your Member of Congress to visit one of your school cafeterias and demonstrate how the school nutrition programs benefit the children of your community. Click below for the Cafeteria Site Visits 101 guide.

<http://capwiz.com/asfsa/issues/alert/?alertid=15263781>

- **Send a Letter to the Editor of your Local Newspaper** – Send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper, indicating your support for Child Nutrition Reauthorization and ask that Congress pass a strong bill providing additional funding for the school nutrition programs. Click here for a link to a letter you can send.

Article provided by: www.schoolnutrition.org



Recognized as the authority on school nutrition, the School Nutrition Association (SNA) has been advancing the availability, quality and acceptance of school nutrition programs as an integral part of education since 1946.

Want Biometrics in your lunch line but don't have a POS from Food Service Solutions?



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www.biometricsolution.com

BioWedge is very easy to set up and configure for existing point of sale software packages for a completely integrated biometric identification system.

USDA Releases SY 2010 - 2011 Reimbursement Rates

26¢

The basic rate for paid lunch in the 48 contiguous states - an increase of one cent from last year.

\$2.72

The amount at which free lunches will be reimbursed. Up from \$2.68 last year.

20.25¢

The rate for donated foods - an increase of 0.75 cents from last year.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service has published the reimbursement rates for the 2010-11 school year. The rates are effective as of July 1, 2010.

The basic rate (Section 4 and Section 11 funds) for paid lunch in the 48 contiguous states is 26¢ - an increase of one cent from last school year. Free lunches will be reimbursed at \$2.72 per meal - up from \$2.68 last year. Reduced price lunch reimbursement is now \$2.32 up from \$2.28 last year.

Paid breakfast reimbursement rates remained the same at 26¢ and free breakfast is now \$1.48 while reduced-price breakfast is now \$1.18 in non-severe need districts. In severe need districts, free breakfast is now \$1.76 and reduced-price breakfast is \$1.46.

The rate for donated foods is 20.25 cents per meal - an increase of 0.75 cents from last year. The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) rate for paid breakfast and supper will be 0.26. Reduced price breakfast and supper will be 1.18 and 2.32. Free breakfast will be 1.48 and supper will be 2.72.

To review the rate charts and notices including new reimbursement rates for Alaska and Hawaii, please see Related Links.

www.foodserve.com/sna/reimbursement.pdf

Article provided by:
www.schoolnutrition.org

The Secret to Auditing School Vending Sales

School vending is still primarily a cash business. But cash can be difficult to track. The more hands that touch the cash from machine to bank deposit.... the more opportunities there are for smaller deposits. Even the large professional vending companies experience this problem.

Mark Manney, the founder of Loss Prevention Results, is a friend of mine who has saved vending operators enough money over the last few years to make a standard lottery prize look like chump change. Mark makes a comfortable living showing vending operators how to prevent their employees from inappropriately siphoning cash from the steady flow. You can check out his website at:

www.losspreventionresults.com

Mark, like myself, has written many articles on his vending adventures. His Sam Spade writing style entertainingly chronicles real experiences. Mark even offers special covert tools, like the Israeli manufactured mini-cam demonstrated on the website.

It's Actually Pretty Easy

School vending is certainly very different from business & industry vending... but not when it comes to cash accountability. There are basic rules to be observed if we want to keep honest people honest. We have addressed the vending 'key' security before. Now let's address sales audits. There is a very simple procedure.

It makes no difference whether you are operating your own vending

machines or receiving an income from a third party vending company. The auditing is always the same. Every vending machine has a non-resettable sales meter that constantly accumulates the total sales from day one... just like a cash register. There are no exceptions whatsoever. Anyone telling you otherwise is lying. Do not trust computer reports. Every vending accounting software program I have ever examined has the capacity to keep two sets of books, allowing for very creative commission reporting. The way to know if you are getting all the funds promised is to have your staff audit that meter reading with a vending route person once every month.

Now You See It



Now You Don't

Vending manufacturers have technical service manuals on-line where you can learn how to pull up the historical sales figures (accessing the non-resettable meter). You can also contact the technical service departments at U-select-it, Dixie Narco, AMS or Crane National to find out how to access the current sales meter figure on the machines in your school. It will require opening the machine, pressing a service mode button on the computer controller and then pressing a series of buttons on the keypad. This is what vending operators almost never share with you. If you are still asking someone else to place their machines in your schools and pay you a percentage of the sales.... you need

to audit the sales to make sure they are paying you what they promised. If for any reason you cannot find how to access the non-resettable sales meter on the machines in your school, then just email us the name of the machine manufacturer and the model number and we will research the answer for you and email it to you... for free. We do this because the truth will always make Vend-ucation look good. We always welcome full disclosure. Learn more about auditing at the SHOW ME THE MONEY page on our website with this link:

www.vendingmachinesschools.com/school-vending.html

If you operate your own vending machines you should have a cash justification form for every time a staffer removes money from the machine. You will compare the money removed to the difference between the last meter reading and the current sales meter reading and then count the money removed to make sure they match... to guarantee all the sales funds are being deposited in the bank.

This is part of the service Vend-ucation provides to America's public schools. Call or email us and we can help you with school vending.

This article is reprinted by permission from:

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...WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

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www.foodserve.com - www.planyourprofit.com - www.biometricsolution.com