

Healthy School Meals for All Montgomery



During the Covid-19 pandemic, kids have been eating for free at school. Thanks to quick action by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), students received universal free lunch regardless of their ability to pay, but this is about to end! Without action by Montgomery County, **10,000 MCPS students** will lose access to school meals on July 1st, 2022.



In SY 2021-22, 5.89% more MCPS students are participating in the school meal programs than pre-pandemic.



The additional meals being served daily will bring in almost **\$8 million**¹ in federal revenue to Montgomery County this year.



2/3 of the MCPS Food Services Fund budget² is spent on labor. Only 33¢ of every dollar is budgeted towards “supplies,” which includes **all the food AND packaging, serving utensils, etc.**

33¢

1000s of MoCo families need help, but don't qualify for free school meals!

- to qualify a family of 4 must have an annual income **BELOW**³ \$36,075 (or \$9,018.75 per person)!
- by comparison, the Self Sufficiency Standard in Montgomery County is over \$86,580!⁴



Covering the food cost⁵ amounts to only 3.4% of the Food Services Fund budget, which is mandated to be self-supporting (i.e., does not draw from the General Fund) and **less than 1/10 of 1%** of the FY 23 total MCPS budget.



It would cost MoCo taxpayers⁶ 1.7¢ per day or \$6.29 a year...the price of ONE fancy coffee and bagel breakfast.



Funds from the general fund **MAY**⁷ be used to support the school meal program. The mandate to remain budget neutral is **not federal law**. The County Council has the authority to direct funds to be spent on the school meal program.

