



KERN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Michael Zulfa, Ed.D.
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July 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are pleased to inform you that when school begins this fall for the 2023-2024 school year, Kern High School District students will be provided breakfast and lunch meals at no cost during each school day to students requesting a meal, regardless of their family's income. California has become the first state to pass a Universal Free Meals Program for all public school students that became effective with the 2022-2023 school year, which means students will be allowed to have school meals at no cost.

The Universal Free Meals Program will provide students access to daily breakfast and lunch meals without having to qualify for eligibility based on a family's income; no student will be turned down. It is still important for **ALL** households to complete an Alternative Income form, as this may bring significant additional funds to the district's school sites. The information gathered from these forms is critical in determining the amount of funding our schools receive to provide supplemental resources for our students. After July 1, 2023, and before the start of school you will receive more information in the mail, including the appropriate application form which should be completed for your student. This information will also provide designated weblinks to complete the forms electronically, for your ease and convenience.

We would like to ask your cooperation in completing these forms promptly once received, and before the start of school if possible. Without your assistance, the schools cannot maximize utilization of available state and federal funds. Completion of these forms may also qualify students for individual benefits such as college application waivers, SAT/ACT/AP/IB testing fee waivers, and Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT), in addition to possible discounts for internet, cable, cell phones and other services.

We are very much looking forward to serving your student(s) healthy and nutritious meals in the coming school year! Should you have any questions about the program please feel free to contact us at (661) 827-3190.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Davis
Director, Nutrition Services

Nondiscrimination Statement In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)-877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1) **mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

2) **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or 3) **email:** program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.