



September 3, 2008

Dear Parent:

One in five children in New York City lives in a food insecure household, meaning that they do not have a consistent source of food and are sometimes forced to skip meals.

As you know, breakfast is the most important meal of the day and the best way to prepare your child for a day of productive learning and growing. In-classroom school breakfasts are the best way to reduce child hunger in New York City. In traditional school breakfast programs, low-income students must arrive at school early and go to a separate lunchroom to eat. Separating out low-income students increases stigma and reduces participation in the breakfast program.

The universal, in-classroom breakfast program, on the other hand, allows all children to eat breakfast together as part of their first period of instruction. Certain schools in New York have already implemented this program at pilot sites. These schools reported that there was reduced tardiness, improved attendance, and increased student attentiveness in the afternoon as a result of this program.

We hope that you will help us by writing or, better yet, speaking with your child's principal to ask him or her to support in-classroom breakfasts at your child's school. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 825-0028, ext. 212 if you have any questions or if you need further information.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and for your help in ensuring that our schools do their part to ensure that all children in New York begin the day with a healthy breakfast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Berg".

Joel Berg

Executive Director,

New York City Coalition Against Hunger

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