

Dear Heilicher Families,

We hope you're enjoying the last days of summer break! As we gear up for the upcoming school year, I want to share some important news about our school lunch program and the recent state legislation aimed at providing free breakfast and lunch to all students.

Minnesota's new law introduces the possibility of reimbursement for school lunches under certain conditions. We want to assure you that we are actively pursuing this avenue for Heilicher, and we are fully committed to exploring every available option to align with the state's initiative.

Here's a brief overview of what we've uncovered thus far:

**New Legislation Overview:** The new law has been designed to ensure that participating schools can provide free school breakfast and lunch to all Minnesota students.

**Community Eligibility Provision (CEP):** This provision, inclusive of nonpublic schools like Heilicher, prevents schools from charging students for meals if they are part of the CEP program.

**Regulatory Process:** To participate in this program, we need to meet the criteria for CEP and submit an application for reimbursement to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

We understand that while the new legislation brings hope, there are also complexities and challenges — such as eligibility, the reimbursement process, and kashrut — that we need to navigate in order to facilitate Heilicher's participation in the program. Yet, we firmly believe that the benefits of offering free meals to our students far outweigh the challenges. The well-being of our students remains our utmost priority, and if it's feasible within the framework of the new legislation, we're determined to make it happen.

As we work diligently to put this initiative into action, we'll keep you in the loop regarding our progress. Your feedback and support are incredibly important to us, and we encourage an open and ongoing dialogue as we navigate this journey together. In the meantime, please note that our current lunch program will continue as outlined in the back-to-school information packet.

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continuous partnership and dedication to our school community. With your support, we're excited to embrace the upcoming school year and create an environment where our students thrive both academically and beyond.

Wishing you all the best and looking forward to a successful school year ahead!

Warm regards,

Dan Ahlstrom, Ed.D.  
Head of School

