

LAMOILLE UNION MIDDLE SCHOOL

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"Building a Community Prepared for the Choices and Challenges of Life!"

Dear Legislators,

We are Lamoille Union Middle School students, writing to you on the issue of food insecurity in schools. The topic of free lunches is very important. Universal school meals help students all across the state feel more secure. It is a huge help; the problem is that it is only for one year. What about next year? What happens to some of us if we no longer have food to eat during school? Not all of us have time to pack lunch, or money to buy it. This is an amazing program, and it needs to continue. Thousands of students in Vermont experience food insecurity, and it has been a great step in helping those students and their families. I can't emphasize enough how relieving it is for some to come to school and know they won't be starving all day, or singled out for not having enough money.

(A student's opinion) I know it might not be what was intended, but personally universal school meals have been a great help to me. I ride to school by bus, and it's a rickety one hour drive. I get car sick very easily, so it has been great to be able to eat breakfast at school, after the drive—instead of before, where there was a danger of me not keeping it down. Beforehand, I never even thought about eating breakfast at school, and simply didn't eat it at all. Once the program began, I realized that I could eat in the morning at school, for completely free. I know this project was not specifically for me, but it has affected me. I hope it can continue, and that I won't have to go back to starting the school day feeling sick.

(Another student's opinion) I have not been affected directly by this program, because I bring food from home, but I understand how important it is for other children. Though my life specifically has not been changed, I can most certainly see the change of this program in other students.

Our whole school wants Universal School Meals to stay, even though we may not always be direct about it. Help us keep other kids healthy, happy, satisfied, and ready to learn. No one wants to go back to not eating, or being singled out. Thank you for passing Universal School Meals. Please keep it permanent.

Sincerely,

Alex J. Uele

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