

SCHOOL UNION 76

BROOKLIN – DEER ISLE-STONINGTON CSD – SEDGWICK
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Office of the Superintendent
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"It takes a whole community to educate a child."

Superintendent's Memo

To: Deer Isle-Stonington Parents & Guardians
From: Christian M. Elkington
Re: Free & Reduced Lunch Forms
Date: 9-7-17

Each year one of the many forms that we ask you to fill out is the Free & Reduced Form from the State of Maine. This form starts the process in determining whether or not your family qualifies to have your children receive breakfast and lunch either at a reduced rate or for free at our schools. As we all know food is the sustenance of life and so it is key that both our schools and each family do all we can to make sure each one of our children have the meals they deserve.

Another important part of completing these forms is that depending on the State's Cut Score our school district can qualify for additional state funding to support our school system. These are monies that go directly to programming and can also reduce the tax burden on our communities. Last year we fell just below the % of students who needed to qualify (48%), and so we did not receive extra state funding as we had previously. Because we did not qualify some concerns were raised and negative comments made this past spring during the budget process in regards to us as a school system not completing the process correctly. After a thorough review of our procedures I found that our staff do make every effort, but unfortunately negative comments and some people wanting to place blame make an impression that is hard to resolve.

It is because of these concerns that I am reaching out with this letter to get every form in possible. You will see that another Free & Reduced Form is included with this mailing. If you have already filled one out, thank you. If you haven't I ask that you take the time to do so and send it in to the office of your son/daughter's school completed. Even if you feel you don't qualify or won't qualify, we would still like to hear from you to make sure we contact each family. If you feel you won't qualify or don't want to be included in the process please do one of the following:

- Take the form, sign your name and write on it "We don't want to be included" & send in.
- Write on a piece of paper your name and write out "We don't want to be included in the Free/Reduced Lunch Program" and send in.
- Call your son/daughter's school and ask the secretary to add you to the "We don't want to be included Free & Reduced List."

Any of these options will allow us to make sure we have done all we can to support each and every student in CSD 13.

Thanks very much for your help and attention to the above!