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www.cafoodbanks.org

The Honorable Cindy Chavez, President and
Members of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 West Hedding Street East Wing, 1
0th Floor San Jose, CA 95110

February 6, 2020

Dear President Chavez and Supervisors:

I am writing in support of the Universal Meal Pilot Program in High-Need Schools that will be considered by the Board of Supervisors on February 11, 2020. As Director of Government Affairs for the California Association Food Banks representing not just Second Harvest but also 40 other food banks around the state, I know firsthand how impactful nutritious meals are for students, and how under-resourced families struggle to meet their families' needs given the high cost of living in Silicon Valley. Providing free meals to all students at our high-need schools will build community and provide the nutrition students need to flourish, both emotionally and academically. This program will be an important step to address student hunger.

The Universal Meal Pilot Program in High-Need Schools proposal is an innovative, collaborative investment in providing for student's nutritional needs, and supporting their education. We applaud Santa Clara County for supplementing funding so that our school districts can leverage federal dollars in order to feed all our children.

Free and reduced-price school meals have been a pivotal tool in our community to address food insecurity, obesity rates, and poor health outcomes. Yet, the unique needs of Silicon Valley require greater investment and collaboration. Funding for our schools typically is directed at academics, but this important program recognizes the important role of nutrition and health in student success. This gap funding is the only way many schools can adopt universal meals programs.

Thank you for your continued investment in our children, families, and community. This proposal has the support of the California Association of Food Banks, and I feel honored to be part of this forward-thinking initiative.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Cheyne".

Andrew Cheyne
Director of Government Affairs



LUTHER BURBANK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Established in 1906

Edith Mourtos

Interim Superintendent-Principal

The Honorable Cindy Chavez, President and
Members of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 West Hedding Street East Wing, 1
0th Floor San Jose, CA 95110

February 4, 2020

Dear President Chavez and Supervisors:

I am writing in support of the Universal Meal Pilot Program in High-Need Schools that will be considered by the Board of Supervisors on February 11, 2020. As Interim Superintendent-Principal of Luther Burbank School District, I know firsthand how impactful nutritious meals are for students, and how under-resourced families struggle to meet their families' needs given the high cost of living in Silicon Valley. Providing free meals to all students at our high-need schools will build community and provide the nutrition students need to flourish, both emotionally and academically. This program will be an important step to address student hunger.

The Universal Meal Pilot Program in High-Need Schools proposal is an innovative, collaborative investment in providing for student's nutritional needs, and supporting their education. We applaud Santa Clara County for supplementing funding so that our school districts can leverage federal dollars in order to feed all our children.

We believe all of our students can learn at high levels, but if they are hungry, it makes it very difficult for them to concentrate and do their best. For some of our students, school meals are their only source for a nutritious hot meal. When we are supporting a child who's behavior is escalated, we ask if they have had breakfast and often the response is no. We see first-hand the transformation in the child's ability to focus in class and interact positively with his/her peers after having eaten.

Free and reduced-price school meals have been a pivotal tool in our community to address food insecurity, obesity rates, and poor health outcomes. Yet, the unique needs of Silicon Valley require greater investment and collaboration. Funding for our schools typically is directed at academics, but this important program recognizes the important role of nutrition and health in student success. This gap funding is the only way many schools can adopt universal meals programs.

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Norma Castañeda • Mark Lemucchi • Vincent Robinson • Michael Rowe • Jean Tseng

4 Wabash Avenue, San José, California 95128

408-295-1814 • www.lbsd.k12.ca.us



LUTHER BURBANK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Established in 1906

Edith Mourtos

Interim Superintendent-Principal

Thank you for your continued investment in our children, families, and community. This proposal has the support of Luther Burbank School District and I feel honored to be part of this forward-thinking initiative.

In partnership,

Edith Mourtos

Interim Superintendent-Principal

Luther Burbank School District

4 Wabash Avenue

San Jose, CA 95128

Board of Trustees

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February 5, 2020

The Honorable Cindy Chavez, President &
Members of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
70 W. Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear President Chavez & Supervisors,

Second Harvest of Silicon Valley is thrilled to write in support of the Universal Meals Referral.

One in three children in Silicon Valley is at risk of food insecurity. Feeding children at school is a crucial strategy to ensure that our students are fed and ready to learn and thrive.

This innovative referral would provide funding to allow local high-needs schools to take advantage of federal meals programs like the Community Eligibility Provision and Provision 2. These programs enable schools to feed every child a free breakfast and lunch, ensuring they have the nutrition they need for school success.

Santa Clara County would be in the vanguard of using local dollars to enable the use of even greater federal dollars. For every \$1 Santa Clara County invests, the federal government would be investing at least \$2 in feeding our children. This is a smart use of county funding and will become a model for the rest of the state.

At a time where there is great fear in our community and stigma around applying for free and reduced price meals, these universal meals programs build strong community by feeding all the children in a school together. This program would allow our school districts to feed all their students and eliminate all meal debt while leveraging federal dollars.

We applaud Santa Clara County for their collaborative and thoughtful approach to feeding high-need children in Silicon Valley!

In Partnership,

A blue ink signature of Leslie Bacho.

Leslie Bacho
CEO

A blue ink signature of Tracy Weatherby.

Tracy Weatherby
VP, Strategy & Advocacy

Curtner Center
408-266-8866
750 Curtner Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125

Cypress Center
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San Carlos, CA 94070

shfb.org



Santa Clara County Office of Education

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

February 5, 2020

**The Honorable Cindy Chavez, President and
Members of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 West Hedding Street East Wing, 1
0th Floor San Jose, CA 95110**

Dear President Chavez and Supervisors:

I am writing in support of the Universal Meal Pilot Program in High-Need Schools, proposed by Supervisor Ellenberg and Supervisor Simitian. As County Superintendent of Schools and as an educator, I know firsthand how food insecurity impacts students and can lead to or compound the challenges they face in terms of attendance and success in the classroom. Given the high cost of living in Silicon Valley and how under-resourced families struggle to meet their families' needs, a program that provides free meals to all students at our high-need schools will build community and provide the nutrition students need to flourish, both emotionally and academically. This program will be an important step to address student hunger.

The Universal Meal Pilot Program in High-Need Schools proposal is an innovative, collaborative investment in providing for student's nutritional needs, and supporting their education. We applaud Santa Clara County for supplementing funding so that our school districts can leverage federal dollars in order to feed all our children.

I am keenly aware of the struggles children have when they are hungry. Hunger and poor nutrition affect a child's ability to learn, their brain development, health, and behavior. Food insecurity and hunger impact thousands of children in Santa Clara County schools every day.

Free and reduced-price school meals have been a pivotal tool in our community to address food insecurity, obesity rates, and poor health outcomes. Yet, the unique needs of Silicon Valley require greater investment and collaboration. Funding for our schools typically is directed at academics, but this important program recognizes the important role of nutrition and health in student success. This gap funding is the only way many schools can adopt universal meals programs.

Thank you for your continued investment in our children, families, and community. This proposal has the support of the Santa Clara County Office of Education and I feel honored to be part of this forward-thinking initiative.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Ann Dewan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan,
County Superintendent of Schools
Santa Clara County Office of Education
1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131

Campbell Union School District

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Shelly Viramontez, Ed.D.
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February 6, 2020

The Honorable Cindy Chavez, President and
Members of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 West Hedding Street, East Wing, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear President Chavez and Supervisors:

I am writing in support of the Universal Meal Pilot Program in High-Need Schools, proposed by Supervisor Ellenberg and Supervisor Simitian. As Superintendent of a district with several high-needs schools, I know firsthand how impactful nutritious meals are for students and how under-resourced families struggle to meet their families' needs given the high cost of living in Silicon Valley. Providing free meals to all students at our high-need schools will build community and provide the nutrition students need to flourish, both emotionally and academically. This program will be an important step to address student hunger.

The Universal Meal Pilot Program in High-Need Schools proposal is an innovative, collaborative investment in providing for student's nutritional needs, and supporting their education. We applaud Santa Clara County for supplementing funding so that our school districts can leverage federal dollars in order to feed all our children.

I have personally observed the difference meals in the classroom is having as our teachers have incorporated it into their morning meeting time. They have shared that, because our students are fed and ready to learn they are more engaged and attentive during our "literacy block," and discipline challenges have decreased.

Free and reduced-price school meals have been a pivotal tool in our community to address food insecurity, obesity rates, and poor health outcomes. Yet, the unique needs of Silicon Valley require greater investment and collaboration. Funding for our schools typically is directed at academics, but this important program recognizes the important role of nutrition and health in student success. This gap funding is the only way many schools can adopt universal meals programs.

Thank you for your continued investment in our children, families, and community. This proposal has the support of Campbell Union School District, and I feel honored to be part of this forward-thinking initiative.

Sincerely,

Shelly Viramontez, Ed.D., Superintendent
Campbell Union School District