

Food for Thought Vol 1

McKinney middle school students just completed the annual Student ViewPoint Survey. We had a record number of responses, over 60% of McKinney's middle school students participated in this year's survey. As I reviewed the preliminary results, one statistic stood out to me. According to survey, between 22% - 34% of students answered "I do not have enough money to buy lunch" to the question "Why don't you eat lunch". Myschoolbucks.com and the free & reduced meal assistance program can help support children who do not feel they have enough money to eat meals.

Myschoolbucks.com helps parents manage students pre-paid lunch accounts. There are several tools that are beneficial from the website including monitoring purchases, low balance notifications and on-line payments. Emails for low balance notifications help remind you when your child's balance gets low. Payments on-line are easy and there is a small fee for using paypal. To avoid paypal service charges, you can always send checks or cash for pre-payments. The account is free and easy to set up. You will need your child's student id number. To get started follow the link www.Myschoolbucks.com.

The free & reduced meal program is available to student from PK-12th grade. To qualify for the program families must apply every year and meet income guidelines. You can apply for benefits anytime during the school year. To apply for benefits follow the link for the online application at <http://www.mealsense.org/mckinney/how-to-apply.aspx>.