

From: Jayvin Hernandez

Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 9:30 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: Dr. Vincent Boudreau

Subject: Free Lunch to Students Enhances Academic Performance and Accessibility

As a student at CCNY, I am writing to propose the idea of offering free lunch to students on campus. Free lunch would have significant benefits for our college community.

First and foremost, providing free lunch would alleviate the financial burden for many students who struggle to afford daily meals. College tuition and living expenses are already heavy burdens on students, and offering free lunch could help ease the financial stress and improve the quality of life for our students.

In addition, this would contribute to the overall health and wellness of our student body by ensuring that they have access to nutritious meals throughout the day. I have personally been impacted by the issue of not having access to free lunch, because there have been times when I couldn't afford to pay for food. As a result, I wasn't able to concentrate in class, which affected my ability to learn. This has forced me to prioritize my limited funds between transportation costs, textbooks, and tuition. I am not the only student who has experienced this. According to surveys held in 2020 and 2019, nearly 167,000 students nationwide answered and reported that 39% of college students had experienced food insecurity in the last 30 days.<sup>1</sup> As a school that advertises itself as being affordable to everyone, shouldn't you also make college affordable for students who experience food insecurity as well as those who can afford lunch?

Furthermore, providing free lunch would have a positive impact on campus culture and community building. By offering a shared-dining experience, students from diverse backgrounds can come together and interact with each other in a relaxed and welcoming environment. This would foster a stronger sense of community and create opportunities for meaningful social connections, which are vital for students' personal and academic growth.

I understand that implementing such a program would require significant resources and planning, but I believe that the potential benefits far outweigh the costs. There are several possible options for funding the program, such as reallocating existing resources or seeking donations from alumni or local businesses. Additionally, the free lunch program could be designed to promote sustainability by incorporating locally-sourced and environmentally-friendly foods. To implement this free lunch program, CCNY could consider partnering with local food banks or community organizations to secure donations of food and resources. CCNY could also explore opportunities to integrate the program into existing campus dining facilities or to create a

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<sup>1</sup> Rowan, L. (2021, August 25). *How hunger impacts college students-and what's being done to alleviate it*. Forbes. Retrieved February 27, 2023, from <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/personal-finance/college-students-food-insecurity/>

designated space for the program. Additionally, CCNY could work with student organizations and volunteers to help run the program and ensure its success. By collaborating with various stakeholders, CCNY could create a sustainable and effective program that meets the needs of its students and promotes a positive campus culture.

Finally, I strongly urge you to consider the proposal to provide free lunch to CCNY students. This initiative would not only address the practical needs of our student body but also contribute to a more inclusive and supportive campus community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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Jayvin Hernandez