



DEPEW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Food Service Department
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Joseph Metty
School Lunch Manager
(716) 686-5009

Dear Community Members,

On Thursday, October 26, Foodservice Directors across NY State received a memorandum from Upstate Farms regarding a shortage of half-pint milk containers. Starting Monday, November 6, schools will be receiving milk in half-gallon containers in place of the half-pint size we usually have.

NYS Child Nutrition and State Education sent a waiver to all Directors notifying that, due to the shortage, we are not required to serve milk. However, as the Director of Food Service here at Depew, I do not believe this is the right option for our children. I will do my best to ensure our children receive the proper nutrition. I met with my team and we came up with the following protocols:

High School

1% milk and low-fat chocolate milk will be available in bulk in the cafeteria, where the current milk cooler is located, for students to pour their own milk.

Middle School

1% milk and low-fat chocolate milk will be available on the cafeteria serving line pre-portioned in cups with lids for breakfast and lunch service.

Cayuga Heights Elementary

Cereal and milk will not be offered during breakfast. Operationally speaking, we do not see it as a viable option to pour milk for classroom service. We are looking into serving yogurt as a dairy alternative, but only if available. 1% white milk will be pre-portioned and offered during lunch service along with the option of juice. NYS Child Nutrition is allowing juice as an alternative to milk at this time. 1% milk will be offered during lunch, but currently chocolate milk will not be offered.

Upstate Farms forecasted the carton issue will last until early January 2024. We thank you during this time for your patience. Again, we are taking all measures possible to ensure every student receives the proper nutrition every day.

Sincerely,

Joseph Metty
School Lunch Manager, Depew UFSD
716-686-5009

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