



February 1, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians of Seattle Students:

This information is being provided to all parents/guardians in the Seattle School District regarding the “Hold on some United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Beef”. USDA issued the “hold” after receiving news on Thursday, January 31, of serious allegations concerning the treatment of cattle processed at the Westland Meat Company in California.

Our response to that information was to remove all beef from the Seattle Public Schools menus as a proactive, precautionary measure. We were not asked or required to pull all beef from the menu, but made this decision to prevent confusion. Middle and high school lunchrooms pulled all beef products starting Thursday so no beef was served on that day.

However, due to the late notice from USDA, elementary students were served beef teriyaki dippers on Thursday, January 31st. These dippers were processed by Pierre Foods Company. We were informed by state officials that no meat products provided by Pierre Foods contained meat from Westland Meat Company.

District Nutrition Services is continuing to monitor the situation, and will follow the guidance of state officials regarding the results of the USDA investigation. We will not resume using beef until notified by the state that USDA has finished its investigation.

The health and safety of our students is of primary concern. We ask for your understanding and your support of the Seattle School District School Meals Program. Students will find their school favorites on the menu. We will continue to offer variety and options in our lunchrooms each day. The District Registered Dietitian has revised the school menu for the week of Feb. 4th – 7th. Lunchroom staff have the revised menus and/or parents can go on line to www.seattleschools.org/area/nutrition-svc/index.dxml to view the revisions.

If you have questions or concerns that cannot be addressed by my office, please call Anita Finch, Director, Nutrition Services, at 206-252-0685.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anita Finch".

Anita Finch
Director, Nutrition Services