



Feb. 25, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians of Seattle Students:

This information is being provided to all parents/guardians in the Seattle School District regarding the “recall” of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) beef. The USDA issued this Class II recall which means it was issued “out of an abundance of caution.” As a proactive, precautionary measure, Seattle School District’s response to the initial hold was to remove all beef from the menu. The products previously on hold are now being destroyed today as a result of the recall.

The Seattle School District has followed all directives and procedures from the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and USDA. All products recalled are being buried at Cedar Hills Landfill per USDA and King County Health Department guidance. Additionally, the USDA has terminated contracts with Westland/Hallmark as a supplier of beef.

We want to make you aware that starting immediately, beef will again be a menu choice. We believe all beef prepared and served in our schools is safe. According to the USDA, no illnesses have been traced to the recalled product and the USDA believes this to be an isolated incident. They have also stressed they are confident in the safety of the food supply.

Thank you for your continued support of the school meals program. Once again your students will find their favorite school menu items including beef on the menu. Please do not hesitate to call me at (206) 252-0685 if you have questions or concerns regarding the school meal program.

Sincerely,

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

Anita Finch  
Director, Nutrition Services