

## Why Do We Need Universal Free School Lunch?

- *Students don't eat school lunch now because they don't like the food and because they don't want their friends to think they need it.*
  - 37% of students we surveyed agreed that students think they will get teased for eating school lunch.
  - 37% of students we surveyed agreed that students get teased for eating school lunch.
  
- Even though students are hungry, some may not be able to afford or want to spend money on lunch. So too many just don't eat during the day.
  
- If everyone had free lunch, students would not make fun of each other's income because nobody would know whose income is high and low because of school charges. School lunch participation would not drop by 19% from elementary school to middle school.
  
- 64.1% of families in East Harlem receive food stamps; 75% of students in East Harlem are eligible for free or reduced price lunch. Free school lunch will help people in poverty eat and promote good nutrition in East Harlem.
  
- Eating a healthy lunch helps students pay attention and perform better in school.