**BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAM:**

The meals for MeANS are contracted to Good Will-Hinckley Café. School meals will be available to students at no charge this year, regardless of household income. MeANS will be participating as a CEP school so we will not be asking parents to fill out a free/reduced meal application as we have in the past.

A breakfast program is available for all students. Breakfast is provided in the lobby of MeANS where students are called by floors. Lunch is provided across the campus at the Prescott Cafeteria. Students and staff walk to the café daily. The schedule provides for a 30-minute lunch period. A hot entrée as well as a salad bar and sandwich bar options are also available. Students are responsible for returning their trays, cleaning their tables, and returning their chairs prior to leaving. Outside seating is available and students are responsible for cleaning the outside eating area.

Healthy meals are offered every school day. Meals meet nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If a child has a disability, as determined by a licensed medical authority, and the disability prevents the child from eating the regular school meal, substitutions may be made as prescribed by a licensed medical authority. If a substitution is needed, there will be no extra charge for the meal. Please note, however, that the school is not required to make a substitution, unless it meets the definition of disability and is supported by a complete medical statement form signed by the local medical authority.

We encourage all families to make sure their students are taking advantage of the free meals being offered daily. If you have any questions regarding the food program at MeANS please reach out to Good Will-Hinckley Kitchen Manager Katrina Guptill at (207) 238-4005 or kguptill@gwh.org.

While you will not be asked to fill out the standard Free/Reduced meal application we will be asking you to fill out an Economic Status Form to aid in applying for funding for Title I programs, funding and resources for after-school programs, funding provided to schools from the Maine State Legislature for essential programs and services at school, funding for special education, teacher loan forgiveness, and much, *much* more!  This will be information collected and held by the school not by food service.

Federal and state government use the aggregate data from the application to distribute education funding to schools across the county and state of Maine. In other words, **if there is no data to inform the needs of the community, it could result in less education funding for MeANS and for Maine.**