

# Fourteen More Rural Schools to Have Hot Lunches This Fall

An additional 14 of the 107 state operated rural schools will be served hot lunches this fall, according to Robert Thomas, Director of Administrative Services for the State Department of Education.

This number brings the number under the hot lunch program to a total of 31.

This last session of the state legislature appropriated over \$2 million for hot lunch facilities plus operational funds for the program.

The intent for the use of this money was to place hot lunch programs in every school by making facilities available and funding the necessary food and personnel, Thomas said.

Fifty-seven rural schools will be served so called cold lunches consisting of hot soup, cocoa and sandwiches until the kitchen

units which have been ordered are installed, Thomas added.

"After this, the program will be upgraded as quickly as possible."

Nineteen rural schools are left with no lunch program at all. Most are located where the

school children can go home for lunch, such as logging communities. Last year there were 27 schools in this category.

Also last year there were 63 cold lunch programs compared with 57 this fall.

"Charges for the lunch are

variable," Thomas said, "and are I believe, determined at the community level by the Advisory School Board."

At some state rural schools there is a charge of 10 or 25 cents.

Funds collected for lunches

have been used in two ways. In some cases they have gone into the General Fund for support of the total program and in other cases were handled at the school level to supplement the program by making additional food purchases locally.