



State Superintendents of Education Can Be Champions for Summer Meals

During the school year, 22 million children receive free and reduced-price meals through the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs (NSLP). But when school is out, many low-income children relying on these school meals go hungry. Improving access to Summer Meal Programs has been a long-standing priority for USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) because only a fraction of the children who rely on school meals have access to the good nutrition they need when school is out.

Despite vigorous efforts at the Federal and State levels, the Summer Food Service Program and NSLP's Seamless Summer Option are still vastly underutilized. As an educator, you have the opportunity and ability to make a real contribution towards improving access to Summer Meal Programs for children in school communities throughout your State.

Here are some suggestions on how State Superintendents can promote Summer Meal Programs, expand participation, and make a difference in the lives of children. By working together, we can ensure no child is hungry this summer!

- Communicate directly with your districts and share with them the importance of making schools available to feed community children. Schools are the best sites for Summer Meals. Children and parents are familiar with them and they are known for providing nutritious food in a safe environment. A message from the State Superintendent can help shape district priorities for creating a network of schools that can serve as Summer Meal sites.
- Communicate directly with your School Food Authority Directors to work with schools to become Summer Meal Program sponsors. Schools with full kitchens can help prepare meals for distribution both at school and around the community.
- Create public service announcements and press releases to raise awareness about Summer Meal Programs. Schools are a trusted community resource. A message from the State's leader in education can help parents know that Summer Meal Programs are useful resources for their families.



10/31/16

Summer Meals Toolkit

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- Encourage teachers to share information about Summer Meal sites in their community with the children and families in their classes. Teachers have the attention and trust of their students and their families, and often know which children are in need. If they can reach out and connect these families with Summer Meals before the school year ends, they could continue to have a positive impact on their students, even after the school year ends.

USDA Resources

- **Power Up for Summer Fun!**
 - English:
http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/Summer_Flyer_En_508.pdf
 - Spanish:
http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/sp-Summer_Flyer_508.pdf
- **Feeding More Children During Summer Months**
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/outreach/SNAPandSFSPmap.htm>
- **USDA National Hunger Hotline**
1-866-348-6479
- **Email Updates**
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFNS/subscriber/new>
- **FNS Regional Office Contacts**
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns-regional-offices>

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