

# FACT SHEET

## The USDA has Extended Free Meals for All Students

The USDA has extended summer meal waivers through December 31, 2020 with the extension of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) which allows schools *to serve meals to all students at no charge. No income verification is required.*

This decision will help families as they return to school to continue to receive safe, healthy and nutritious food *whether they are learning in the classroom or virtually.*

### Highlights Summer Food Service Program Effective through December 2020

- SFSP Reimbursement Rates
  - Breakfast \$2.33
  - Lunch \$4.08
- Allowing SFSP & SSO meals to be served in all areas and at no cost;
- Permitting meals to be served outside of the typically-required group settings and meal times;
- Waiving meal pattern requirements as necessary; and
- Allowing parents and guardians to pick-up meals for their children.

### How to Enroll in the SFSP

The Illinois State Board of Education has begun sending a survey to all School Food Authorities, asking if you are interested in participating in the Summer Food Service Program.

- If you have not received a survey from the state, contact Megan Kuchar at [mkuchar@isbe.net](mailto:mkuchar@isbe.net) directly. [Click here to complete the survey online.](#)
- We recommend all of our partners select SFSP (Summer Food Service Program) – not the Seamless Summer Option –which is available to all schools regardless if you are participating in the National School Lunch Program or not.
- All schools are encouraged to select Open Enrollment site as opposed to the Closed Enrollment site.  
Schools that select Closed Enrollment only allows you to serve students enrolled in your district. Open Enrollment allows you to serve all students in your community. Both open and closed sites are reimbursed equally for each student served, regardless of their income level.
- **Note: participation in the SFSP can be stopped at any time without any impact on your previous program.**

**Quest will provide meals that meet the Summer Food Service Program guidelines and maintain documentation for you to claim the reimbursable meals.**

- Summer Food Service Training
- SFSP Menu Following the Required Meal Pattern
- Daily Count Sheets
- Daily Production Sheets
- Civil Rights Training

**Additional information related to the SFSP waiver:**

- Meals may be Provided on Holidays, Weekends and Days Schools are Closed
- Students that have typically been asked to complete a new application in October to carry over benefits for students from the previous year will not need to do so under SFSP. Additional information from ISBE/USDA will be forthcoming.
- If students want *additional milk or juice, these would have to be paid for a la carte.*
- Guidance is being sought by Illinois State Board of Education regarding other a la carte guidelines from the USDA.

**This Fact Sheet is based on the News Release issued by the USDA on September 8, 2020 titled, “WTAS: USDA Extends Free Meals for Kids Through December 31, 2020”**

**Washington, DC, September 8, 2020** – Last week, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will extend several flexibilities through as late as December 31, 2020. The flexibilities allow summer meal program operators to continue serving free meals to all children into the fall months. This unprecedented move will help ensure – no matter what the situation is on-the-ground – children have access to nutritious food as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. USDA has been and continues to be committed to using the Congressionally appropriated funding that has been made available. [\*\*GET THE FULL PRESS RELEASE HERE\*\*](#)