

**Date:** June 24, 2020

**To:** Superintendents of Public School Districts and BOCES District Superintendents

**From:** Kathleen R. DeCataldo

**Subject: Feeding Children in Need and Child Care for Essential Workers During the Summer**

As schools closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was critical that school districts provide meals to all students and particularly to students who rely on the two meals a day provided in school when school is open.

This urgent need will continue through the summer months. Although historically, many school districts have not provided meals during the summer, due to the COVID -19 pandemic, this is reminder that the Governor's office has directed that "meal programs and child care for essential employees

of Child Nutrition. Child Nutrition staff are available to provide sponsors technical assistance and guidance during the application process and throughout the summer.

#### Notification of SFSP Site and Meal Availability

Regardless of whether the school district is providing a SFSP, every school district is responsible to ensure that information regarding meal accessibility is provided in ways ensured to reach families in need in their identified preferred language. School districts must cooperate with SFSP sponsors to distribute materials and provide outreach to inform families of the availability and location of free SFSP meals for students over the summer.

Families can be provided the following information to quickly and easily find summer meals near them.

Text: “food” or “comida” to 877-877

Call: 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 211

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids>

[www.summermealsny.org](http://www.summermealsny.org)

If school districts are not able to provide access to meals for their free and reduced price lunch population for any reason, and there are no other access to meals available, the school district must notify the State Education Department at [CNCOVID@nysed.gov](mailto:CNCOVID@nysed.gov).

Districts are also expected to continue the arrangements previously made to provide child care for essential workers in accord with their currently submitted plan. If a district’s plan needs to be revised to provide alternative child care during the summer, districts must resubmit their updated plans to the State Education Department by July 3, 2020. Please contact the State Education Department at [COVID19@nysed.gov](mailto:COVID19@nysed.gov) if your plan must be resubmitted.