



Resources to Help You Help Them!

SUMMER MEALS SAMPLE LETTER

Dear **School Administrator Name**,

As we continue to grow together in this rapidly changing environment, the school nutrition department wants to assure you that we are here to support your efforts to provide our community with valuable information and services. The coronavirus has greatly impacted how we provide the meals that students depend on throughout the school year. Your leadership can make certain that those same children do not go hungry during summer months. Let's continue to work together to promote awareness of free meals available throughout the summer.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) operates Summer Meal Programs to address food insecurity, and we are requesting your help to make access to meal participation a priority.

Here are some suggestions on how you can promote summer meals, expand participation, and make a difference in the lives of children so they are ready to learn when they return to school:

- **Provide children in our community with meals at schools in your district.** Children and parents are familiar with local schools, and schools are known for providing nutritious food in a safe environment. Even if a school will not be offering summer programming, it can serve as a meal site and fill the nutrition gap for your students this summer.
- **Place a Summer Meals Banner Ad on your district and school websites.** Messaging to parents the importance of children having access to nutritious meals during the summer months.
- **Encourage teachers and staff to share information about Summer Meals availability and sites** on their digital communication platforms (Google Classroom, Clever, etc.) to parents and students. Messaging the importance of healthy nutrition during the summer is the first building block for preparedness when they return to school.
- **Utilize sample public service announcements, social media posts and press releases to raise awareness about Summer Meal Programs.** Schools are a trusted community resource. A message from the leaders in education can help parents know that these meal programs are useful resources for their families.

Summer meal programs need champions. Please help us feed more children in our community when school is not in session by becoming a champion for **Summer Meals**. Thank you, as always, for your dedication and commitment to our children.

Sincerely,