

Early this week the USDA announced the ability for school districts to provide free meals under the COVID19 SFSP Nationwide Waiver for any child under the age of 18. What this did was extend the summer food service program through December, 2020. Park County School District 1 Food Service Director, Jill Queen and Mary Jo Lewis, Coordinator of Business Services, met with the Wyoming Department of Education food service staff to make sure that we clearly understood the details of what is and isn't allowed with this waiver since we have students now in school. The option the district will currently operate under is the Summer Food Service Program Closed enrolled site. This would be a site, where all of the students enrolled would eat and be claimed free whether they are eating breakfast and/or lunch at the physical school building or picking up meal(s) and eating them at home while learning virtually. It would be closed and available only to those that are enrolled at that site.

We started the free meals for our enrolled students on September 3, 2020. We will continue to serve the same breakfast and lunch menu that has been posted to our website and at your schools for the students that are physically at school. Ala carte purchases, extra milks and adult meals are all still fully paid and are not subject to the free meals waiver. Adult's must have money on their accounts at the schools for any meals they are purchasing or can pay cash in the line but they do not receive free meals. Extra milk or a milk if a student is bringing a meal from home is also a charge, this is not subject to the free meal waiver. All ala carte purchases still require a cash payment as we have to be able to show we are not supplanting any of those costs with the Summer Food Service Program waiver funds.

We are working on the details for serving kids that don't attend our public schools or the under 5 population if we can find a community partner to host as a serving and preparation site. At this time, this program is not in place in the Park #1 school district.

We still need to have those free and reduced meal applications completed and in place no later than October 1st as that count is used for multiple other programs and funding sources. If they are not completed by the October date, any students that remain will go to paid status and will have to pay full price beginning in January without the current SFSP waiver. We don't want this to happen to students or parents. Our Title I funding is determined by the free and reduced meal counts as well as at risk funding in the school funding model so it is very important and is also impactful of whether we qualify for other federal funding.

Thank you for all your help in getting our school year off to a great start for our students and hopefully with the extension of free meals to all students it will be another less worry for parents as they send their children to school.