

Meal Guidance for the 2021-22 School Year

July 1, 2021



Professional Standards:

2240 Serving Lines

2300 Point of Service (POS)

2620 Food Safety

3100 Free and Reduced-price Meal Benefits

3200 Program Management

4120 Program Promotion

Agenda

- Introductions
- Priorities
- Meal Guidance for the 2020-21 School Year
 - Waivers available
- Next Steps
- Resources
- Q&A

Introductions

- Nigel Henley, Training & Communications Specialist, OSSE
- Elizabeth Leach, Nutrition Programs Manager, OSSE
- Alex Dobbs, NSLP & FFVP Compliance Manager, OSSE
- Kimberly Thompson, Program Specialist, OSSE



What a year it's been...

RECOVERY PRIORITIES

SAFE REOPENING

Ensure a safe reopening of school buildings for all students and staff

STUDENT & STAFF WELL-BEING

Support the physical, social-emotional, mental, and behavioral health of our school communities

ACCELERATED LEARNING

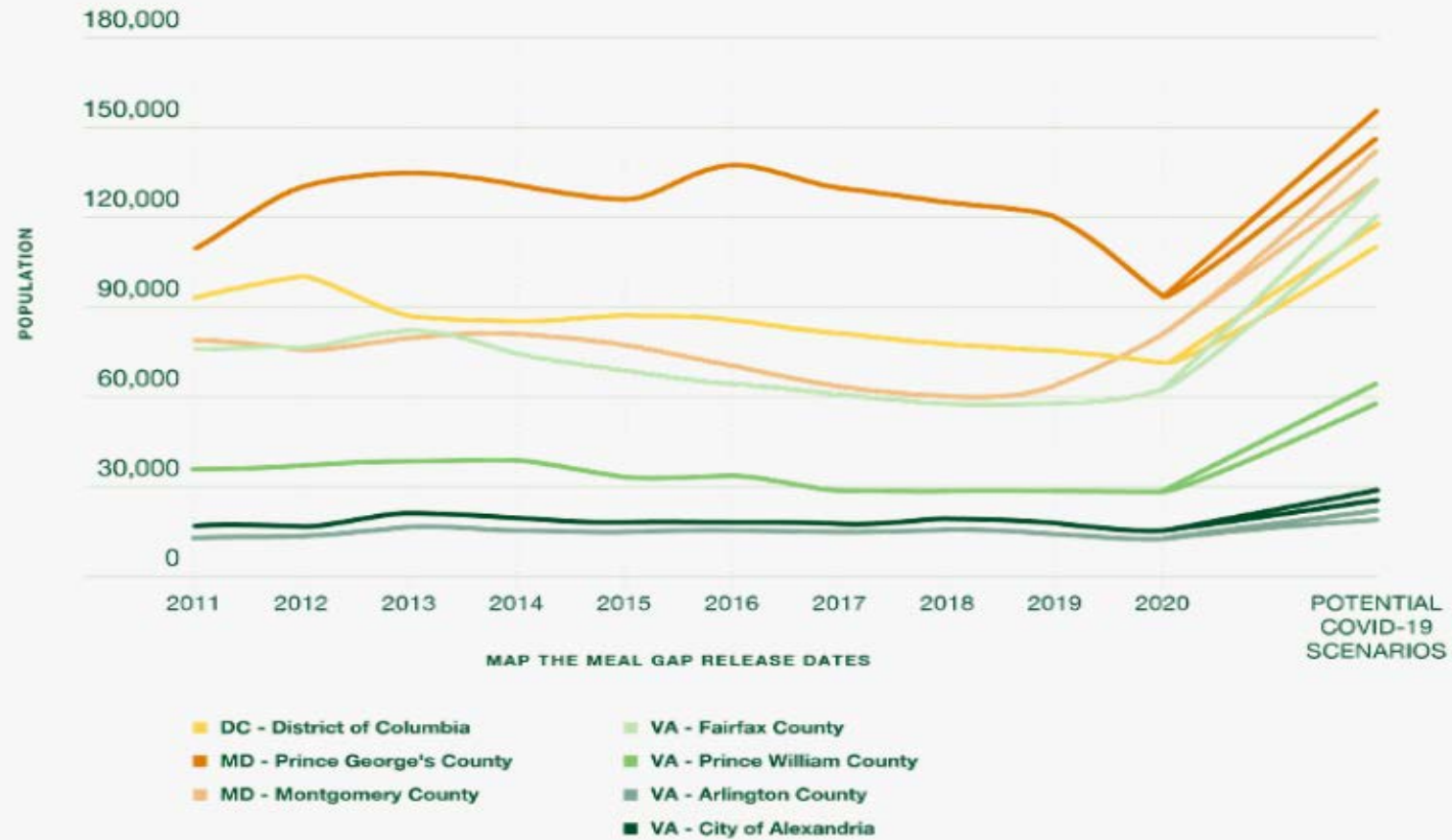
Assess impact of interrupted instruction and accelerate learning, at home and in person, for all students



STUDENT & STAFF WELL-BEING

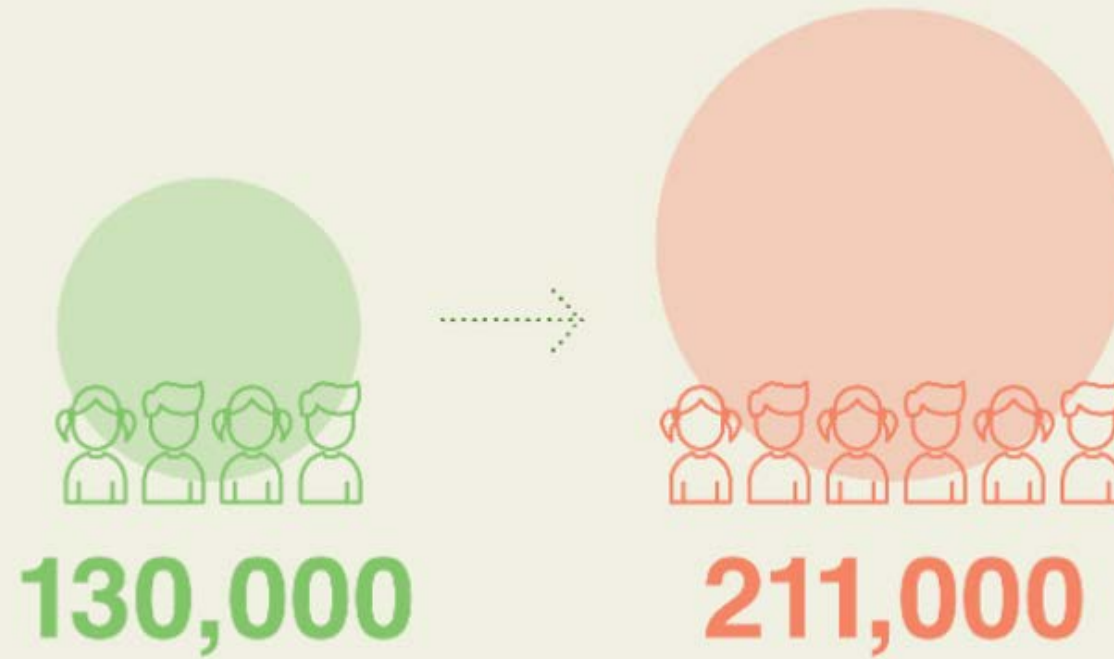
For accelerated learning to take place, LEAs must account for the pandemic's impact on the physical, social-emotional, mental and behavioral well-being of students, staff and families.

HISTORICAL & PROJECTED FOOD INSECURITY BY YEAR GREATER WASHINGTON



Source: Feeding America

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO ARE FOOD INSECURE
WILL RISE IN COMING MONTHS



GREATER WASHINGTON METRO REGION



Poorer health for children

Food insecure children are more likely to experience stomach aches, headaches, colds, ear infections, and fatigue. They are sick more often, recover more slowly, and are more likely to be hospitalized.



Benefits of School Meals

Research shows that access to school meals can improve students' dietary intake and give them the nutrition they need to spend their school day focused and ready to learn. The academic and health benefits of school meals are undeniable.³ Participation in school meals programs is linked to better test performance; fewer cases of tardiness, absenteeism, and disciplinary problems; fewer visits to the school nurse; improved overall dietary quality; and a lower probability of overweight and obesity.^{4,5,6} Low-income students in particular benefit from participating in school meals programs; in D.C., where 1 in 4 households with children struggle against hunger, increasing participation in school meals programs is vital. (For more information on the benefits of school meals, see the following briefs from FRAC: **[Research Shows that the School Nutrition Standards Improve the School Nutrition Environment and Student Outcomes](#)**, **[Breakfast for Learning](#)**, **[Breakfast for Health](#)**, and **[The Connections Between Food Insecurity, the Federal Nutrition Programs, and Student Behavior](#)**. These resources and more can be found on FRAC's Benefits of **[School Breakfast](#)** webpage.)

Healthy bodies and minds are the foundation of academic success.

All children and students, 6 months to 18 years old, who qualify for free or reduced-price meals or those who rely on US Department of Agriculture (USDA) meal programs, **have access to and receive meals** including breakfast, lunch and afterschool snack and/or supper, regardless of location across the District.



Meal Service Guidance for the 2021-22 School Year

Increased Access to Meals

- **Seamless Summer Option (SSO)** allows schools to serve meals **free of charge**
 - Decreases administrative burden
 - Eases point of service (POS) requirements, reducing potential contact and exposure
 - Provides higher reimbursement rate

Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

Topic	SSO
Eligible Participants	Persons age 18 or younger and persons age 19 or older with a physical or mental disability
Type of Meals	Two meals per day. May be any combination of breakfast, lunch , AM or PM snack, or supper (except for lunch and supper).
Meal Cost for Students	FREE
Site Types	Open, Open Restricted, Closed Enrolled, Mobile
Meal Counting Method	Tally sheets

Increased Access to Meals

- **Area Eligibility** flexibility allows any site to offer **free of charge**:
 - National School Lunch Program (NSLP) afterschool snacks
 - Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) afterschool snack and/or supper
 - Meals/snacks reimbursed at the free rate

Key takeaways

- OSSE recommends providing **breakfast and lunch through the SSO**
 - Free of charge to students
 - Reduced administrative workload
 - Higher reimbursement
- OSSE recommends providing **after-school snack and/or supper**
 - Free of charge to students
- **Communicate meals available** to students and school community

Continuous Education Plans

- **Ensure access to nutritious food** for students regardless of their learning environment
 - **Identify the service model** (such as meals in the classroom or grab and go meals) for students in-person and in a distance learning environment
 - Include a **communications plan to promote meals**



Waivers & Flexibilities

Waivers

- **Promote operational flexibility**
 - Non-congregate meals
 - Meal time flexibility
 - Parent/guardian pick up
 - Offer vs Serve (OVS) flexibility for 9-12
- SFAs should use these waivers **only** for the duration and extent needed

Targeted Meal Pattern Flexibility

- Schools may request **targeted** flexibility for select requirements:
 - Sodium
 - Vegetable subgroups
 - Milk variety
 - Age/grade groups

Waiver Request Form

- Located in the [Library tab](#) of [Orchard](#)
- Upload with your school meal programs application under **Documents->Misc.**

Application	Title
Financial Information	Supplemental Documents
Management Plan	1. Assignment of USDA Foods Planned Assistance Level
Documents	2. Emergency Meal Plan
▼ Site Management	3. Severe Need Data Sheets
Site Information	4. Policy Statement
Site Summary	5. Misc.
▼ Organization Acceptance	
Confirm and Accept	
▼ State Agency	

Waiver Request Form

[illegible]



Resources & Next Steps

Nutrition Programs Trainings

School Meal Programs
Annual Training

Summer Series

Office Hours & Technical
Assistance

Guidance Documents

Health & Safety
Guidance for Schools

Meal Service Guidance in
the 2021-22 School Year

Outdoor Meal Service Tip
Sheet

Additional

Modifying School Spaces
During Mealtimes

Meal Promotion Toolkit

Handwashing Signage

Cleaning and Disinfecting
Signage

Best Practices for Parent
Pick-Up of Meals

Next Steps

Due to OSSE:

- ✓ Continuous Education Plans
- ☐ Attend school meal programs annual training and summer series sessions
- ☐ Due July 30, 2021:
 - ☐ School Meals Application (SSO, NSLP)
 - ☐ Waiver Request
 - ☐ Community Eligibility Provision Elections

School Year Planning

- ☐ Promote summer meals
- ☐ Engage with Local Wellness Committee in planning
- ☐ Revise food, health, and safety plans
- ☐ Review and revise menus
- ☐ Identify and customize meal service method(s)
- ☐ Secure procurements including small and micro-purchases
- ☐ Train staff
- ☐ Communicate and promote meal availability



Q&A

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