



District 31 Food Service Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Oct. - Dec. 2020

Why are we implementing this program?

The Summer Food Service Program, SFSP, is one of the Nutrition Programs provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) open to all non-profit, private or public teaching institutions. The SFSP was instituted to provide nutritious meals to children during summer months when school is not in session, but it was expanded to allow schools to be reimbursed for meals during months when COVID-19 has impacted school attendance across the country.

Pursuant to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and based on the exceptional circumstances of this public health emergency, this program has been extended through December 31st.

The District is participating in order to help all families in the community who have been impacted by COVID-19 both financially and by the disruption to education.

What is the program costing the district?

Participating in the program is a net financial benefit to the District. There are significant fixed labor and overhead costs involved in running a food service operation. Due to the reduced number of students in school as a result of COVID safety constraints participation is very low. The federal government reimburses the district \$4.08 for each lunch served and by feeding all students we are able to generate more revenue to support/offset these overhead costs.

Are there other districts more in need of this program who could be getting this service instead of us?

By participating, we are not taking resources away from another district. There is not a fixed budget that is allocated across schools. Children need healthy meals to learn, and the expanded SFSP is a federal program designed to feed as many children as possible.

Do we need to feed ALL families? Why not just families who need it?

No community is insulated from the effects of COVID-19. Many families throughout the community have experienced job losses or other hardships as a result of the pandemic. Some families are also struggling to work from home, manage remote learning, and feed their kids a healthy lunch. We want to treat all families the same to preserve dignity and anonymity. Anyone in the community may need help at this time.

Do we need to order lunches?

No. We will NOT be accepting orders through the Google form. We are planning to serve all in person kids the hot meal option every day.



District 31 Food Service Program Frequently Asked Questions Oct. - Dec. 2020

What if I have a food allergy or other dietary restriction?

Nutritional and ingredient information can be found in [FDmealplanner](#) (please see Field or Winkelman to view your meals) and it is also noted on the menu (as well as allergens). We will do our best to accommodate allergies and dietary restrictions with alternate meals. Meals are made primarily from scratch and all meals are peanut and tree nut safe. However, we cannot guarantee that raw ingredients do not have some level of cross contamination from being processed in facilities that may also process allergens. If you require food accommodations, please click on the [link](#) to sign up for vegetarian or gluten friendly daily meals the rest of the year. Any questions or concerns, please contact garellano@questfms.com.

Why did we ask if families want to opt out?

We understand that for a variety of reasons families may not want to participate in the program. To minimize food waste, we are asking those families to opt out so we can better predict how many meals to prepare. **Please contact Griselda Arellano at garellano@questfms.com if you do not want to receive meals the rest of the year.**

If we opt out now, can we still get meals if we change our mind?

Yes. Opting out is not a binding election. We are using this information for planning purposes only. Having an idea of people's preferences and a consistent pattern of participation will allow us to run the program more efficiently and minimize food waste.

Is the program all in or all out? My student won't eat some of the options but they will eat others.

If you will not participate at all or in substantially all of the program, we ask that you opt out. This is for quantity planning only; we are not recording and tracking names. If you opt out but forget to pack a lunch we will still feed your student.

If you would prefer to pack a lunch on those days, that is also fine. We will always try to anticipate a level of student absences and gauge which meals are less popular in order to adjust meal quantity accordingly. Consistent patterns of participation will allow us to make better quantity predictions and minimize waste.

Is there a way to donate uneaten meals if there are leftovers?

No. Food Safety practices require that the proper temperatures are maintained prior to consumption. Consistent patterns of participation will allow us to make better quantity predictions and minimize waste.



District 31 Food Service Program Frequently Asked Questions Oct. - Dec. 2020

Will this program be extended beyond December 31st?

The federal government has extended the SFSP twice this year. We do not know whether the program will be extended again.

Do I need to meet the federal income guidelines for free lunch in order to participate?

No. The expanded SFSP program is a program that is designed to feed all children in response to COVID-19.

Do I need to attend school at District 31?

No. The expanded SFSP program is a community-wide program that is designed to feed all children 18 years of age and younger in response to COVID-19.

Can I pick up meals at other schools or other locations?

There are other school districts in the community participating in this program. You may NOT receive free meals from more than one local agency at the same time (i.e. you are limited to a total of 7 days of meals, breakfast & lunch, per child per week)

Are we spending our tax dollars on the lunch program?

No. We are not spending local money on this meal program. District 31 is part of a federal program. In fact participation in this program SAVES local dollars because our participation in this program means we can reduce the amount of local money spent on food service programs for the 2020-2021 school year.

What happens with all the food that is not claimed? Can we donate it?

Federally funded programs have a number of requirements that a school district must follow. One of those requirements prevents us from donating or giving away excess food. However, food that is not used is frozen or stored for the next distribution period in order to eliminate waste.

Why are all kids encouraged to participate? My family does not need the meal support.

One of the requirements of this federally funded program is that we provide meals for ALL students, regardless of whether or not they have demonstrated need. In fact, any person under the age of 18 in our community is eligible to claim meals through this program, whether or not they are currently enrolled in the program. This federal government program subsidizes every single meal that is claimed, reducing any financial burden on the district. However, you and your child can choose not to take the offered meals on any day but the school district must ensure that we have provided for every student.



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Remote Only FAQ

Do we need to opt out if we are fully remote?

No. Meals that are picked up by families who are remote contain a frozen entrée and vegetable, and fresh fruit and milk. We will keep an inventory of these meals and replenish as needed, so there is no concern about having to throw away leftover food. If you prefer meals be delivered via our bus services, please complete the link provided below.

For the frozen meals, is the menu the same as what is posted online?

The frozen entrees will be the same meals that are served to students during the school day (labeled with reheating instructions). There will be an assortment of meals that will roughly follow the menu, but actual menu items may vary based on demand.

How many meals will I receive?

You will receive 7 breakfast and 7 lunch meals every Monday at Glenbrook South High School from 8:30 am – 12 pm. If delivery has been requested, the meals will be dropped off by North Shore Transit.

Why are the food pick up times Mondays 8:30 AM – 12 PM?

We are trying to make it convenient for working parents. This time is intended to strike a balance between having our staff available and being accessible to working parents. We are happy to schedule a pickup for people around their schedule and, as we get more feedback, we will update the times accordingly, if possible.

Where is meal pick up?

Meal pick up is at Glenbrook South High School (Door D).

If delivery of meals is preferred, how is that managed?

Please complete the appropriate form below. District 31 will coordinate with Quest and First Student to arrange a weekly drop off at homes on Monday morning.

[Request for Delivery of Meals - English](#)

[Request for Delivery of Meals - Spanish](#)

[Request for Delivery of Meals - Mongolian](#)

[Request for Delivery of Meals - Korean](#)

What safety measures are being taken relative to COVID-19

Students will be eating in their classroom, socially distanced and behind Plexiglas shields. We will offer a limited menu of individually sealed meals to ensure safety and hold temperature during transport.