



State Offers School Meals at No Costs for Lower-Income Families

Minneapolis, MN (Aug. 27, 2020) — Minnesota students will continue to have access to nutritious school meals, regardless of the learning model their school will be using for the 2020-21 school year. For families on a limited income, students may be able to receive **two meals a day at no cost**.

All families should complete **an application for Educational Benefits** to see if their child or children qualify for free or reduced-priced school meals. Even those who have received these benefits in the past will need to reapply for the new school year.

In Minnesota, thanks to state legislation, **all reduced-priced meals are also free!**

“Families across Minnesota are experiencing new or worsened financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By applying for Educational Benefits from your school, your child will not only receive access to high-quality meals for free, but may also benefit from reduced school fees,” said Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker.

Ellie Lucas, executive director of Hunger Impact Partners, added, “Schools have done a phenomenal job to make sure students have access to nutritious meals in the last six months. Let’s make sure our kids continue to get what they need to grow, learn and thrive.”

Check your school’s website for information on the application process, or visit [Minnesota Department of Education website](#) for more information and resources. Translated applications for Educational Benefits are available in [Hmong](#), [Somali](#) and [Spanish](#).

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About MN Dept. of Education

The Minnesota Department of Education supports quality education for Minnesota students by striving for excellence, equity, and opportunity. They focus on closing the achievement gap, supporting high-quality teaching, using innovative strategies to improve educational outcomes, and ensuring all students graduate from high school well-prepared for college, career and life. The Minnesota Department of Education develops, builds, and maintains collaborative relationships with schools, districts, and other stakeholders through a wide variety of advisory boards, councils and committees.

About Hunger Impact Partners

Hunger Impact Partners, a 501c3, works to change the trajectory of child hunger by improving access to and participation in under-utilized federal child nutrition programs for the 479,805 eligible Minnesota kids. Experts in hunger-relief, data analysis, community collaboration and policy solutions, the organization focuses on closing the meal gap for all low-income children birth to 18 so they can realize their full potential. www.hungerimpactpartners.org

