



Preparing for the Summer Food Service Program

Hunger doesn't get a summer vacation. That's why DECAL's goal is to ensure that every child in Georgia has access to nutrition through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). This goal cannot be accomplished without the help of our sponsors all across the state!

We will be hosting several information sessions in March to create awareness of SFSP, especially in our targeted counties. If you know an organization that would be interested in becoming a sponsor, or you would like to expand your program to include additional sites, please contact Cindy Kicklighter at (404) 656-3221, or via email at cindy.kicklighter@decalfga.gov.

2019 Targeted Counties

- Charlton
- Dodge
- Dooly
- Harris
- Jenkins
- Lanier
- Lee
- Montgomery
- Pike
- Pulaski
- Stewart
- Telfair
- Treutlen
- Webster
- Wheeler
- Wilcox
- Worth



UPDATE: Child Nutrition Program State Waiver

In accordance with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Nutrition Services policy memorandum, SP 15-2018, CACFP 12-2018, SFSP 05-2018 - Child Nutrition Program Waiver Request Guidance and Protocol-Revised, May 24, 2018, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) is seeking a waiver of statutory and/or regulatory Program requirements that were recently rescinded.

Two waiver requests were submitted to the USDA FNS Southeast Regional Office (SERO) for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). DECAL has requested continued use of waivers involving:

- (1) Area Eligibility in Closed, Enrolled Sites (7 CFR § 225.2); and
- (2) Meal Time Restrictions (7 CFR § 225.16).

Copies of the official requests can be found here:

- * [SFSP Waiver Request - Closed Enrolled](#)
- * [SFSP Waiver Request - Meal Time Requirements](#)

For additional information, please contact Kate Alexander, Policy Administrator, at:

Kate.Alexander@decalfga.gov.



Confirmed Program Training Dates (February - May 2019)

Please see below the list of training sessions for February - May 2019. Self registration can be completed in ATLAS. **Registration is required to attend.** Please contact Sylvia Boykin at sylvia.boykin@dec.al.gov for more information.

SFSP - Experienced Sponsor

February 8, 2019

Oak Conference Room

SFSP - Experienced Sponsor

February 22, 2019

DeBose Porter Center
560 Pinehill Road
Dublin, GA 31021

SFSP - Experienced Sponsor

March 12, 2019

Columbus Technical College
928 Manchester Expressway
(Library - Room 600)
Columbus, GA 31904

At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program

March 19, 2019

Spruce Conference Room
Limit 10 people

SFSP - New Sponsor Training

March 21-22, 2019

Georgia State University
75 Piedmont Avenue, 6th floor
Atlanta, GA 30303

SFSP - Experienced Sponsor

March 26, 2019

Georgia State University
75 Piedmont Avenue, 6th floor
Atlanta, GA 30303

SFSP - New Sponsor Training

April 9-10, 2019

Columbus Technical College
928 Manchester Expressway
(Library - Room 600)
Columbus, GA 31904

SFSP - New Sponsor Training

April 23-24, 2019

DeBose Porter Center
560 Pinehill Road
Dublin, GA 31021

SFSP - New Sponsor Training

May 6-7, 2019

Oak Conference Room

At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program

May 21, 2019

Georgia State University
75 Piedmont Avenue, 6th floor
Atlanta, GA 30303



There are no mandatory program training sessions in January and June.



DECAL Download

Have you listened to DECAL's new podcast? You can find DECAL Download [here](#) or on Apple Podcasts, Google Play, Spotify, Stitcher, TuneIn, Overcast, and more.

In this week's episode of DECAL Download, we discuss the 2019 Georgia General Assembly. Rian Ringsrud, DECAL Deputy Commissioner of Finance and Administration; Liz Young, DECAL Director of Government Relations; and special guest Polly McKinney, Advocacy Director with Voices for Georgia's Children join us to give updates about this year's legislative session.



DECAL Download

New Episodes Every Wednesday!

Important! SFSP Revised Forms

DECAL is currently in the process of revising/updating select SFSP program operation forms and policy guidance. This information will be posted to the DECAL web site. Please look for an official announcement on the web posting date within the next two weeks.



2018 National Farm to Early Care and Education Survey

The National Farm to School Network (NFSN) in partnership with Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems conducted a survey in Spring 2018 geared toward Early Care and Education providers. The purpose of the survey was to learn about current Farm to ECE initiatives, motivations and challenges when thinking about and/or implementing Farm to ECE practices.

The survey focused on the three (3) core elements of Farm to ECE – local procurement (school purchase, serving and promoting local foods), education (educational activities related to food, agriculture and nutrition) and school gardening practices (learning about agriculture, food and nutrition through gardening).

Respondents reported the majority of their ECE activities consisted of: (1) Education about locally grown food, how food grown and where it comes from, (2) Planting or working with children in edible gardens on site and (3) serving locally grown food in meals, snacks or taste tests. The survey also revealed the majority of ECE participants served local foods consisting of vegetables (28%), Fruit (28%) and milk (24%). Of these local foods served, many respondents reported purchasing from local suppliers at least a few times a week.

To read more about the importance of implementing Farm to ECE into your program as well results from the 2018 National Farm to early Care and Education Survey, please visit the [National Farm to School Network](#) website.

Indoor School Gardens

School gardens are one of the core elements of Farm to Early Care and Education. Cold, winter weather should not prevent you from implementing gardening into your classrooms. Utilize tips from [Kids Gardening](#) for creating your own indoor garden.

Growing Your Own Salad

Did you know leafy greens are one of the many items you can grow using your indoor garden. Greens such as spinach can be used in meal options such as eggs, salad and pasta. Try this method for [“Growing Your Own Salad”](#) also from Kids Garden to grow your own leafy greens.



Procurement Update

The latest Procurement Masterclass has been posted on DECAL's [YouTube Page](#). Please take time to review “How to Purchase Utilizing Micro Method.” If you haven't already, check out the masterclass on Small Purchase Procurement, also available on DECAL's [YouTube Page](#).



Easy Way to Get Your Greens!

Check out these delicious smoothie recipes to help your little eaters enjoy more of those leafy greens grown with your indoor gardens!

HOW TO MAKE A GREEN SMOOTHIE

STEP 1: LIQUID (2 CUPS)

- milk: Almond, Coconut, Rice, Soy, Cows
- coconut water
- water

STEP 2: GREENS (3-4 HANDFULS)

- baby kale
- bok choy
- spinach
- Swiss chard

STEP 3: FRUIT (2 CUPS)

- strawberries
- raspberries
- blueberries
- blackberries
- pineapple
- apples
- cherries
- pears
- peaches
- grapes
- mangoes
- oranges

*we like to use at least part frozen fruit because it makes your smoothie thicker and more creamy

STEP 4: CREAMY FRUIT (1 EACH)

- banana
- avocado

STEP 5: HEALTHY FAT (2 TBSP)

- flax seeds or flax oil
- nuts
- coconut oil
- seeds
- chia seeds
- nut butters

OPTIONAL ADD-INS:

- Sweetener : honey, dates, extra banana
- Spices/other flavors : Cinnamon, Nutmeg, Vanilla, Lime, Lemon, Ginger
- ice cubes

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