

NUTRITION NEWS

Helpful Hints & Tips | SFSP Edition XXX

• Expanding Your Capacity for Summer 2018 •



As you return to the rhythm of the school year, we hope you begin considering what your summer operations will look like for 2018. Specifically, we hope to help you expand your capacity in the program next summer.

In 2018 we are targeting five (tentative) counties that did not have any meal service this year. We encourage you to consider and begin making preparations to serve these five counties in summer 2018:

- Bacon
- Crawford
- Pike
- Schley
- Webster

If you are interested in adding more sites in the counties you serve, or establishing sites in counties bordering those you serve, please contact Shani Drake, Marketing & Outreach Manager at shani.drake@decals.ga.gov. In your email, include the counties you would be willing to serve and the number of additional sites you can take on.

We are working to ensure that sites across the state have access to sponsors. If you have any questions, contact Shani Drake at the email address above!

• Preliminary Summer 2017 Results •



Thank you for your hard work this summer! We commend you for your dedication to ensuring Georgia's youngest citizens had access to healthy, free meals this summer. You provided a critical resource for abating childhood hunger during the summer. Due to your efforts, the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) grew in many areas in 2017.

In conjunction with the Department of Education, the program expanded in three of six targeted counties. Children were served at sites in Haralson, McIntosh, and Taliaferro counties – counties that had no meal service the previous year. Additionally, we saw a 5.5% increase in sites across the state. Your hard work also resulted in 66 library sites this year, an increase of 35% year over year! Your concerted efforts resulted in just under 5.4 million meals and snacks served through the SFSP during summer 2017!

We appreciate your diligence and dedication in realizing this growth. We will continue to update you on summer 2017 results as final numbers come in.

• 2018 Training Registration •

Experienced sponsors will be able to register for 2018 SFSP training on December 1, 2017. Training dates will be made available to sponsors within the next few weeks. Updates to come!

• Early Language and Literacy Mini-Grant Program •

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) recently announced the launch of the Early Language and Literacy Mini-Grant Program to invest in community partnerships to support efforts to build early literacy skills in young students.

The Early Language and Literacy Mini-Grant Program is designed to support collaborative partnerships in projects targeting birth to age eight language and literacy development needs. These community partnerships may include child care facilities, public and private Pre-Ks, primary grades of elementary schools, local service agencies, and local nonprofits. The program is a joint effort of GOSA and the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy at Georgia College.

Grants from \$5,000 to \$20,000 will be awarded to support innovative projects that develop or strengthen community initiatives targeting at least one of the four pillars of the Get Georgia Reading Campaign: Language Nutrition, Access, Positive Learning Climate, and Teacher Preparation and Effectiveness.

For more information on this grant opportunity, visit the GOSA website [here](#). Applications are available online, and the submission deadline is October 31, 2017.

If you have questions about this grant opportunity, contact Stacey Lutz, Program Manager for Strategic Professional Learning at stacey.lutz@georgia.gov or Dr. Cayanna Good, Deputy Director, Innovation and Academic Strategy, at cgood@georgia.gov.

• End-of-Summer Survey to Come •



Nutrition Services will be issuing an End-of-Summer Survey in the coming months to get your feedback on the 2017 summer meals season and your participation in the program. Questions will cover a variety of topics and will include a number of open response questions. All survey responses will be submitted anonymously, and data from the responses will be aggregated and reported to you.

We will use the findings to inform our decisions regarding training, technical assistance, outreach, and other processes. Be on the lookout for an email that will provide survey instructions and a link to the survey.

We look forward to your responses! Your feedback will help us improve our services to you that will ultimately benefit the children you serve all over our state.