



Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

August 26, 2020

Sponsoring Organizations & Institutions:

Recently, USDA's Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) provided guidance and clarification for program operators as they transition to the new school year 2020-2021. We have highlighted a few items below. Please review the entire document for additional guidance [here](#).

- All at risk afterschool care providers, including those approved to provide non-congregate meals, must comply with the requirement to provide an educational or enrichment activity. However, alternative methods to deliver these activities may be utilized. Examples include but are not limited to offering homework assistance, activity packets, electronic games or books.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, centers and/or homes are permitted to claim reimbursement for meals served to school-age children who are enrolled for care. To claim meals for school-age children in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), all other eligibility criteria must still be met.
 1. The maximum number of meal(s) and/or snack(s) that may be claimed for reimbursement across all CACFP programs is (2) meals and one (1) snack **or** one (1) meal and two (2) snacks per child, per day.
 2. Meals cannot be claimed for reimbursement that are provided by a third party such as a parent/guardian and/or School Food Authority (SFA).
- To ensure program integrity, DECAL is requiring Sponsors/Institutions to take the following action:
 1. Sponsors must complete the **School-Age Children Certification Statement-Sponsors** confirming that they will follow program guidelines and agree to inform, train and monitor program accountability for their applicable sites.
 2. Independent Centers must complete the **School-Age Children Certification Statement-Independent Centers** agreeing to follow program guidelines.
 3. School-Age Children Certification forms must be kept on file at the center or home and must be made available upon request by USDA, DECAL or an authorized representative.

Additional policy guidance on claiming meals for school age children will be provided in a future email.

Thank you for all you do to serve children and their families during this unprecedented time!

Nutrition Services Team

Together, we can help feed Georgia's Children.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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