

For Immediate Release

April 12, 2018

Contact:

Erica Taylor 843-937-6303

Media Release

CCSD Taking Site Applications for 2018 Free Summer Meals Program

Office of Strategy and
Communications

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Erica S. Taylor
Chief Officer

Charleston, SC – Despite the accolades and recognition Charleston and the Lowcountry receive from regional, national, and international publications, [food insecurity](#) among children and teenagers is widespread in Charleston County. The fact is many families in the area struggle to put food on the table. About 25,000 students – or half of Charleston County School District's (CCSD) total enrollment – qualify for free school meals during the school year.

CCSD's Seamless Summer Feeding Program (SSFP) works to fill the nutrition gap when school is out for summer.

For nine weeks this summer, the District's Nutrition Services Department will provide free breakfast and lunch to approved sites in Charleston County through the SSFP.

The program will begin Monday, June 4, 2018 and run through Friday, August 3, 2018 (closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and July 4, 2018).

Breakfast and home-made hot lunches are prepared at one of 11 meal preparation locations (CCSD school kitchens/cafeterias). Representatives from approved summer sites, including schools, camps, community and recreation centers, and churches, can pick up their free meals on a daily basis from one of the 11 locations.

Any child or teen 18 or younger that goes to one of the approved summer sites can eat a free breakfast and/or lunch. There is no approval process for individual children because the site itself already qualifies to receive the free summer meals. All necessary serving and eating utensils, plates, napkins, and condiments are provided.

Meals are available for pick-up throughout the county, including McClellanville, Mount Pleasant, North Charleston, James Island, Johns Island, Hollywood, downtown Charleston, and West Ashley.

Applying to become a site that receives free meals is simple. Visit CCSD's Seamless Summer Feeding Program [website](#); there you will find a [site eligibility map](#), [site application](#), menu, [training dates](#), the 11 meal pick-up locations (schools), and FAQ's.

The deadline for submitting an application is Friday, May 4, 2018.

Last summer, CCSD served 293,950 free meals through the SSFP; the Nutrition Services Department noted a 10 percent increase in breakfasts served compared to the summer of 2016. CCSD also recorded 181 serving sites providing these meals to children in the summer of 2017, a nine percent increase from the previous year.

For more information about the SSFP, please contact Jeremy Tunstill, CCSD's Office of Nutrition Services Officer, at (843) 297-2240 or jeremy_tunstill@charleston.k12.sc.us.

###

About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.