

Free Breakfast and Lunch for All Students Until December 31, 2020

Dear Aitkin Families,

The Minnesota Department of Education has announced that the United States Department of Agriculture, (USDA) will extend the waiver for the SFSP food program until December 31, 2020, or until the funds are depleted.

What this means for Aitkin Public schools is that **ALL CHILDREN 18 AND UNDER** can eat free breakfast and lunch. This will be available regardless of whether we are in person, remote learning or should we go to the hybrid model at any point prior to December 31, 2020 or until funding runs out from the USDA.

Please remind your child that breakfast will be available to them in the morning when they get to school in the High School or when their classroom goes to breakfast at Rippleside. All students will also get a free school lunch each day. Families will be responsible to pay for seconds or additional meals should their student request two breakfasts or lunches on the same day. Those eating doubles will need to pay for the second meal. They will not be free.

We are requesting that all families still complete the **free and reduced meal forms**. That way in January if the program is not renewed by the USDA, families will already have their paperwork in place. When we can identify families who qualify for free or reduced lunch, that also provides some added funding streams for the district. **Please complete the free and reduced meal forms if you have not already done so.**

Students not currently attending school in person will be able to pick up meals from **11:00 - 12:00** each day school is in session starting Monday, September 21, 2020. All meals, for both High School and Rippleside students, will be picked up at Rippleside Elementary. If you are not currently picking up meals and want to be included, please contact the school by 12:00 noon on Friday and we will get you on the list for Monday September 21, 2020. Please call Cassie Conn at 927-7728. If you are currently on the meal pick up list, there is no need to call her, you will stay on the list. Each day you will receive a hot lunch and a cold breakfast for the next morning. Please pick up the meals at the custodial entrance on the North end of the Rippleside building.

The USDA and Aitkin Public Schools believe that all children deserve a good meal and it is essential to student learning and success.

Thank you,
Dan Stifter
Superintendent