

## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **USDA extends free summer meal program for entire 2020-21 school year**

ARLINGTON- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended the free Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) through the 2020-21 school year. In Arlington, this means that all children will receive free meals for the entire school year. Previously, the USDA had extended the SFSP through Dec. 31, 2020.

“We are very pleased that the USDA extended this program for the entire school year,” said Ed Aylesworth, Arlington Public Schools Director of Nutrition and Support Services. “Our student nutrition staff has worked extremely hard during this extended closure to ensure children in Arlington have nutritious meals.”

Arlington Public Schools provides free meals to all children, including those receiving in-person instruction and those participating in distance learning programs. Meals are distributed each Friday at all school buildings in the district.

Families whose income situation may have changed are still encouraged to apply for Free and Reduced Price Meals. While this may not apply to meals this year, there are other benefits for families who qualify, such as free internet connectivity or free insurance for their student’s Chromebook computer. A form is available on the Child Nutrition page on the district website at [www.asd.wednet.edu](http://www.asd.wednet.edu).

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Keina Gowins (left) and Theresa Miller along with other Arlington Public Schools Student Nutrition staff have served meals to children throughout the pandemic. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has extended the free Summer Food Service Program through the 2020-21 school year.