



While the start of the school year looks a little different for everyone, I wanted to share with you some good news that schools nationwide received in the last week. The USDA extended a waiver that allows schools to serve **free breakfast (where served) and lunch to ALL students, as late as December 31, 2020 or as long as funding is available.** We are thrilled with this news as it means that we will be able to provide all Freetown-Lakeville Regional School District students with nutritious and nourishing food for free that will support them, both in school and at home.

What this means for your family and for Freetown-Lakeville Regional School District-

- Your children, ages 0-18 will receive a healthy breakfast (served at AES, FES and GRAIS) and lunch every school day, at no cost, in a safe and welcoming environment. This applies to students who are attending classes in school or virtual classes at home, or a hybrid combination of these models.
- You may pick up meals for your children who are remote learners at designated schools or other meal sites that are distributing meals. Please see information below.
- It allows Freetown-Lakeville Regional School District to provide the most nourishing and appetizing meals possible for your children. When your children eat school meals, it helps the school system by providing federal funds to the district. The more meals we serve, the more funding we receive, allowing us to focus on meal quality, variety and innovative practices. If your children have never before participated in school meals, consider trying the program this year!
- It helps you save time and money. By allowing us to prepare meals for your children you don't have to plan and shop for your children's breakfast and lunch each school day.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has requested that the USDA extend free meals for all students for the **entire** school year. However, as of now, the USDA has only allowed this as late as December 31, 2020 or as long as funding is available. Therefore, families should still submit a household application to determine eligibility for free and reduced price school meals. This will also allow students to qualify for any additional benefits and ensure a seamless transition when schools move back to a paid program (if the waiver is not extended for January to June 2021). The application is available to download at [www.PaySchoolCentral.com](http://www.PaySchoolCentral.com).

Each school is handling meal service a little differently this year. Please refer to the Foodservice letter sent directly from your child's school for specific procedures. Please reach out with any questions you might have. Your children are the reason we do our jobs and we are here to make sure that they are fueled with good food!

Best,

Andrea Fay

Foodservice Director

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## Remote Learner Meal Pickup:

. Bagged breakfasts and Lunches for remote learners will be handed out at both Assawompset Elementary School (232 Main St Lakeville) and Freetown Elementary School (43 Bullock Rd Freetown) on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-11:30am**. Two days of meals will be given out each time. Please enter the driveway for the school and pull up to the staff member handing out meals. Please remain in your vehicle. Meal Pickup will begin 9/22/20.