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May 4, 2021

Dear St. Elizabeth Families,

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) extended a range of waivers to provide flexibilities for schools operating Child Nutrition Programs to increase access to meals through summer 2021. All of these waivers can be reviewed on the DESE Food and Nutrition Services website. On April 20, USDA released further extensions through school year 2021-22 to maximize nutrition and access to meals to support safe school reopening. The nationwide waivers allow for the following flexibility and resource:

- All school sites may continue providing free meals to children ages 1-18 through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

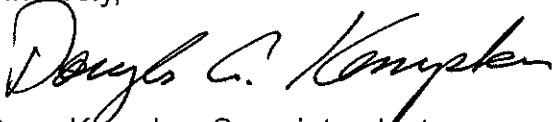
Our school district is very excited about the opportunity to participate in this program as it financially helps all of our parents and guardians.

If this program is changed or discontinued and we need to start charging for meals again, we will notify all parents and guardians as soon as we receive that information. (The average cost for meals is \$400-\$450 per child).

Additionally, next fall we will be sending free and reduced forms home and it is extremely important for the district financially to receive forms from all families who qualify.

As always, feel free to contact the school if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Doug Kempker, Superintendent
St. Elizabeth R-IV School District