

School Food Policy in the Era of COVID-19

Advocacy and Professionalism

Christin Driscoll, Angelica Castañon, Ignacio Sanchez,



“We begin by acknowledging that we across the country meet on the traditional lands served by Native peoples. We honor America’s First People and all elders, past, present and emerging, and we are called on to learn, and share what we learn, about the tribal history, culture, and contributions that have been suppressed in telling the story of America.”

Session Objectives

- By the end of this webinar participants will:
 - Understand the federal emergency response for school meals
 - Share local experiences
 - Commit to taking action to advocate for students and educators in this extraordinary time

Our Purpose

- ESPs are crucial to helping students navigate these troubled times, through support, education and food
- YOU have the power
- Use your power!

What is the scope of the need?

- Students who need meals when school is out
- Families who need food assistance
- Personal Protective Equipment for ESPs



What Has Congress Done?

March legislation:

- \$8.8 billion for child nutrition
- waivers to increase schools' flexibility to serve meals
- Pandemic EBT
- \$15.5 billion for Emergency SNAP and increase in SNAP caseloads
- Education stabilization fund suggests use for disease mitigation, more specificity needed for PPE for ESPs

What are we pushing Congress for now

- At least \$175 billion more for the Education Stabilization Fund
- Extend Pandemic EBT into summer and next school year
- Increase SNAP benefits
 - Monthly minimum from \$16 to \$30
 - Increase maximum benefit by 15%
- Fund school food service costs (\$2 billion)
- \$56 billion for PPE for ESPs

What action can you take

- Tell Congress we need MORE funding for the education stabilization fund, more funding for SNAP and school meals, to extend Pandemic EBT, and specific funding for PPE!
- Write to BOTH Senators and your Rep.:
nea.org/covidaction

Allowable activities under waivers



Education Support Professionals: Our Democracy! Our Responsibility! Our Time!

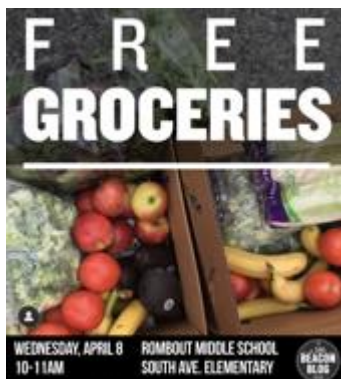
Some national best practices



Fitting delivery buses with WiFi



Counselors and nurses on delivery buses



Free groceries at meal sites



Accessible hours and information

More information on waivers

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Child Nutrition Programs: COVID-19 Waivers by State

PROGRAMS > FNS DISASTER ASSISTANCE > FNS RESPONSE TO COVID-19 > CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM STATE BY STATE COVID-19 WAIVERS

Find Meals for Kids When Schools are Closed

SNAP State by State COVID-19 Waivers

WIC State by State COVID-19 Waivers

Child Nutrition Program State by State COVID-19 Waivers

USDA Foods State by State COVID-19 Waivers



Select from the following list to see all of the COVID-19 waivers issued for your state in child nutrition programs.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/cn-waivers-flexibilities>

COVID-19 AND CHILD NUTRITION

CONTINUE MEAL SERVICE

Over 22 million students rely on free and reduced-price meals every day. It is critical that schools continue to offer meals during closures. The USDA has authorized School Food Authorities (SFAs) and other eligible community organizations to continue to serve meals to students affected by school or child care closures.

ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES UNDER WAIVERS

The USDA has issued several nationwide waivers that allow program operators to do the following:

- Serve meals in a drive-thru or walk-up setting
- Offer 'grab and go' meals
- Serve multiple meals (i.e. breakfast, lunch, snack, and supper)
- Serve multiple days' worth of meals at a time
- Serve meals without an educational or enrichment activity
- Serve meals to parents or guardians without the presence of a child

BEST PRACTICES

- Provide information and maps of meal sites in multiple languages and formats (e.g. social media, flyers, phone calls, community listserve)
- Distribute information through partners (e.g. government agencies, local non-profits, churches)
- Maximize access to meal sites by providing flexible hours
- Offer multiple meals at the same time (e.g. breakfast and lunch)
- Partner with local food banks and pantries to provide boxes of groceries along with meals
- Partner with Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) operators to provide CACFP foods along with meals
- Decentralize food preparation and distribution by activating multiple kitchens
- Deliver meals to school bus stops
- Deliver meals directly to students
- Staff the delivery buses with school nurses, counselors, and/or social workers
- Equip delivery buses with Wi-Fi
- Do not enlist police officers to assist with meal site logistics (the sight of police may elicit fear in families)

RESOURCES

- [NEA COVID-19 webinars](#)
- [NEA Education Votes Child Nutrition](#)
- [USDA Flexibilities and Waivers](#)
- [FRAC summary of nationwide waivers](#)
- [USDA meal delivery](#)
- [FRAC and USDA Meal Service D&A](#)
- [USDA D&A on meal service. Please note most states have already applied for area eligibility waivers.](#)
- [USDA state waiver status](#)
- [USDA Pandemic EBT state status and guidance](#)

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Many families have difficulty reaching meal sites due to work, lack of information, and/or lack of transportation. Push your state to do more to ensure families have access to food: push your state to submit a plan for Pandemic EBT. P-EBT enables states to provide income-eligible families with children in closed schools EBT cards that can be used at grocery stores and farmers' markets.

neatoday.org/schools-and-coronavirus/

ESP Support in New Mexico





Message of Thanks and Support

On behalf of NEA-NM, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for stepping up and being on the front lines for all of us. You are highlighting the important work that many people don't think of when they think of school. You are keeping the system running and caring for our kids and families by making sure their basic needs are met, like you always do. I know you are doing this for the kids, and you are carrying most of the burden. All of us can never forget the critical role that you have in public schools. NEA-NM wants to make sure you are safe and have what you need during this difficult time. We want you to know that we are in this together and we will stand with you.

Many students would do without if it weren't for the sincere dedication and commitment of all the ESP that have been deemed "essential workers" during this pandemic. Our students both love and depend upon you, and we want to recognize your continued advocacy for students and families. In fact, we all depend on your tremendous effort and want to say thank you, something we may not do enough!

Please take time to read and keep the "Know your Rights" card. We have worked with our legal team to make sure these tools are tools you can use if you need to protect yourself or your family. We believe in the work you are doing, and we want to make sure you are safe. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need our help.

Thank you so much,

Mary Parr-Sanchez

Un Mensaje de Agradecimiento y Apoyo

De parte de NEA-NM, quiero tomarme el momento para agradecerles a cada uno de ustedes por haber tomado la delantera y estar al frente de todos nosotros en estos tiempos tan difíciles.

Al llevar acabo su trabajo, están enfatizando una labor muy importante, la cual mucha gente no considera cuando piensan en las escuelas. Es por el trabajo de ustedes que se mantiene funcionando el sistema escolar. Al cuidar de nuestros estudiantes y sus familias logran satisfacer sus necesidades básicas. Se muy bien que lo hacen por nuestros estudiantes y al cuidarlos, cargan con la gran mayoría de esa responsabilidad.

Es por eso que no debemos de olvidarnos del trabajo tan esencial que llevan a cabo en las escuelas. De parte de su unión, NEA-NM, quiero que se sientan seguros en su trabajo y que tengan lo necesario en estos tiempos difíciles. Queremos que sepan que estamos juntos con ustedes en estos tiempos.

Muchos de nuestros estudiantes estarían sin ayuda sino fuera por la sincera dedicación y compromiso de todos los trabajadores de apoyo educacional que han sido identificados como "trabajadores esenciales" durante esta pandemia. Nuestros estudiantes los aman y dependen de ustedes y queremos reconocer el apoyo que les han brindado tanto a estudiantes como a sus familias. De hecho, todos dependemos de su tremendo esfuerzo y queremos decirles gracias, algo que no decimos con la frecuencia debida.

Por favor, tomen tiempo para leer y de guardar la carta "Conozcan sus derechos". Hemos trabajado con nuestro equipo de asesores legales para asegurarnos que estos conocimientos sean útiles en situaciones de trabajo donde su seguridad y la de su familia corran peligro. Valoramos de corazón la labor que hacen por nuestras escuelas y es una prioridad para nosotros cuidar de su seguridad en el trabajo. Por favor no dude en contactarnos si es que necesitan ayuda.

Muchísimas gracias,

Know Your Rights

NEA-New Mexico understands you are on the front line serving students and families. NEA-NM wants you to be safe and have job protection. We are better together, NEA-NM stands with you.

1. You have the right to be safe.
2. You have the right to keep your family safe.
3. You have the right to keep your job.
4. You have the right to be paid no matter what your work situation has become.
5. You have the right and obligation to speak up if safety measures are not followed without fear of retaliation.



Conozca Sus Derechos

NEA-Nuevo Mexico reconoce que estás al frente del servicio de los estudiantes y familias. NEA-NM quiere que te encuentres seguro con protección laboral. Somos mejores juntos, NEA-NM está de pie contigo defendiendo tus derechos laborales.

1. Tienes el derecho de estar seguro.
2. Tienes el derecho de cuidar la seguridad de tu familia.
3. Tienes el derecho de mantener tu trabajo.
4. Tienes el derecho de que se te pague no importa los cambios de trabajo.
5. Tienes el derecho y la obligación de quejarte si medidas de seguridad no se están cumpliendo sin miedo a represalias.





Photo by Kate Torline





**LAS CRUCES
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Memorandum of Agreement

Date: March 31, 2020

To: Irma Valdespino, President Las Cruces Classified School Employee Council

From: Gabe Jacquez, Deputy Superintendent for Operations and Leadership

Re: Health Emergency Work Premium from March 16th 2020 through April 3rd 2020

As an incentive and recognition for reporting to and working at an LCPS designated worksite, hourly employees may be eligible to receive a Health Emergency Work Premium. Please see the following guidelines for more information.

Coverage Period

The coverage period, for which the Health Emergency Work Premium will be effective, will be the initial 3-week period for which all NM public schools were ordered to close by Executive Order 2020-005 issued by Governor Lujan Grisham on March 11th, 2020. This period begins on March 16th 2020 and ends on April 3rd, 2020.

Health Emergency Work Premium

Eligible employees (classified) will receive a Health Emergency Work Premium of 50% of



Photo by Marc Phillips





NATIONAL
FARM to SCHOOL
NETWORK



Farm to
Table
New Mexico

CORE ELEMENTS OF
FARM to SCHOOL



Education Support Professionals: Our Democracy! Our Responsibility! Our Time!

Imagine a world where....

- Every child has access to universal meals
- Every child has access to wholesome real food
- Every ESP has a living wage and a full-time job

What do you imagine?

We Rise Together



NEA members are coming together with parents, community leaders and other activists to demand that Congress act to Ensure that Students & Communities Rise Together by:

- *Stabilizing education funding for students in our communities' schools and campuses. (\$175B)*
- *Building bridges for educational opportunity for students and stronger communities*
- *Supporting the safety, health and well-being of students and educators.*

Go to nea.org/covidaction for more information

Strike While the Iron is Hot!



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

Contact Information

Christin Driscoll, NEA Center for Advocacy

CDriscoll@nea.org

Angelica Castañon, NEA Education Policy and Practice

ACastanon@nea.org

Ignacio Sanchez, NEA New Mexico

isanchez@neanm.org