

Meals to You

Alternative meals program during school building closures

The New Hampshire Department of Education is working with the Meals to You, a project out of Baylor University to bring meals to children in households in rural locations of New Hampshire. Each school that a SAU would apply on behalf of must meet the following three criteria:

1. **The school must have a free and reduced percentage of 50% or more.**
2. **The school must participate in the National School Lunch Program.**
3. **The school must be located in a designated rural location of New Hampshire.**

Below, please find additional information on how the program works.

Meals-to-You is an alternative method available to SAUs to provide meals during unanticipated school closures. Originally started as a pilot program, Meals to You is a collaboration between the United States Department of Agriculture and Baylor University wherein eligible students unreachable by traditional Summer Food Service Programs (SFSP) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO) receive shelf stable, nutritious meals right at their door step that children can prepare on their own. This program is directed towards rural families, for whom traditional summer food service options are a challenge due to distance and transportation. The SAU does not have to pay Baylor in order to administer this program.

Below are parameters for how the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty can be used in SAUs to serve families affected by COVID-19-related school closures. This is one of the many summer food service options SAUs can use to ensure their students have access to nutritious food during unexpected school closures.

Eligibility Criteria:

Districts that wish to participate must meet the following criteria:

- Have schools located in **rural areas** within New Hampshire. Rural designations can be found through:
 - The National Center of Education Statistics (nces.ed.gov)
 - USDA rural designation (fns.usda.gov/rural-designation)
- Have announced a school closure lasting four weeks or longer
- Operate the National School Lunch Program
- **Have schools that are area eligible (50% or more enrolled children receive free or reduced benefit), based on the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option**



New Hampshire

Department of Education

(SSO.) Note: this does not include schools that are temporarily area eligible during the COVID-19 emergency period.

Applications meeting the above criteria will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. If qualified proposals exceed service capacity, the New Hampshire Department of Education (DOE) will prioritize based on the free and reduced eligibility of the schools or the identified student percentage of a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school, where relevant.

Process to Apply:

Step 1: Districts interested in applying must visit: <https://mealstoyou.org/emergency-meals-to-you-school-districts/> to complete the application. Completed applications must be emailed to: cheri.white@doe.nh.gov

Baylor's Tips for Completing the Application:

- Please remember to attach the spreadsheet when submitted the completing application to the NH DOE,
- Please do not NAME the spreadsheet submitted with the SAU and state name in the title,
- Please do not include the SAU name and state name in the subject line of the email when submitting the application.

Step 2: The DOE will verify that the school meets the eligibility criteria and that Meals-to-You applications match information the DOE has on file. The DOE then emails the application to the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty for approval: info@mealstoyou.org.

Step 3: Once the SAU application is approved, families must enroll to receive meals. The SAU must contact families that are **free and reduced** with the information about where to apply so they may enroll. (Please note that this opportunity is not to be extended to Paid students.)

Please see below:

Families enroll electronically on the Meals to You website: <http://mealstoyou.org/emergency-to-you-families>

Step 4: Once enrollment is verified with the SAU, the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty will connect a SAU to a vendor to start delivering meals. Two weeks' worth of breakfasts and lunches that meet the Summer Food Service Program meal requirements will then be sent to families via USPS or UPS. There is a relatively short turnaround time once the enrollments have been processed.

If you have questions please contact:

Cheri White: cheri.white@doe.nh.gov

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