

**Immediate Release**

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**Contact:**

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## Media Release

### CCSD Taking Site Applications for 2017 Free Summer Meals Program

*25,000 students receive free meals during the school year*

Department of Nutrition  
Services

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Walter Campbell  
Executive Director, Nutrition Services

**Charleston, SC** – Charleston is promoted as a world-class tourist destination and the 12<sup>th</sup> “friendliest city in America,” per Travel and Leisure Magazine. That’s great for billboards and brochures, but a closer examination reveals widespread food-insecurity problems in Charleston County, from McClellanville to Edisto Island and all points in between.

The fact is thousands of families struggle to put food on the table. About 25,000 students, or half of Charleston County School District’s (CCSD) total enrollment, qualify for free school meals during the school year.

But what happens during the summer, when school is out? Do these problems miraculously disappear? They do not.

As a result, CCSD’s Nutrition Services Department provides free breakfast and lunch meals to approved sites in lower income areas of Charleston County through its Seamless Summer Feeding Program (SSFP).

The program will be from Tuesday, June 6, 2017 until Friday, August 4, 2017, Monday through Friday (no weekends), and closed on July 4 only.

Breakfast and home-made hot lunch meals are prepared at one of 11 meal sites (CCSD school kitchens/cafeterias). Approved summer sites such as schools, camps, community and recreation centers, and churches, pick up their free breakfast and lunch meals on a daily basis from one of these 11 locations.

Any child or teenager 18 years old or younger that goes to one of these sites during the summer can eat free breakfast and/or lunch. There is no

approval process for individual children because the site itself already qualifies to receive the free summer meals.

All necessary serving and eating utensils, plates, napkins, condiments, etc. are provided.

Meals are available for pick-up throughout the district, at sites located in downtown Charleston, Hollywood, James Island, Johns Island, McClellanville, Mount Pleasant, North Charleston, and West Ashley.

Applying to become a site that receives free breakfast and lunch meals is simple. Just go to [www.ccsdschools.com](http://www.ccsdschools.com) and click on "[Nutrition Services](#)" under the "Divisions" tab.

CCSD's SSFP [website](#) has everything you need to get started including: a [site eligibility map](#), dates of operation, [site application](#), menu, training dates, the 11 meal pick-up sites (schools), and FAQs.

The deadline for submitting your application is Friday, May 5, 2017.

The following are statistics from the 2016 CCSD SSFP:

- Served 277,885 free breakfasts and lunches during 44 serving days (nine weeks)
- Served 159 sites across Charleston County
- Of those 159 sites, 47 were churches or faith-based organizations; 49 were schools; and 63 were varied sites like community outreach centers, apartment complexes, and city parks and recreation centers
- The average number of children and/or teens per site was 54

For more information, contact SSFP manager, Jeremy Tunstill, at 843-297-2240 or [jeremy\\_tunstill@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:jeremy_tunstill@charleston.k12.sc.us).

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#### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and several specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities led by associate superintendents. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and

mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.