

Dear Parents/Guardians:

At this time, HWRSD is not providing free meals to students. This is an ever changing situation and DESE is actively pursuing waivers that would grant exemptions to districts such as ours (lower than 50% of students that receive free meals), so that we might be able to provide meals to free and reduced eligible students regardless of area eligibility at a future date.

We are actively monitoring the situation and will make changes based on any new information we receive. We also want to make sure we have the staff and resources to proceed if needed.

We do realize that many children and families in our district rely on school meals. We wanted to share some community resources that families could take advantage of at this time.

Springfield is currently serving meals to all students under the age of 18 at the following schools:

Bowles, Commerce, Dorman, Glickman, Indian Orchard, Kensington, Liberty, Lincoln, Rebecca Johnson, Talmage, Warner and Washington.

Meals will be available at the front door for breakfast and lunch between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to any person 18 years old or younger. Identification is not required.

Counselors at [Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline](#) at 1-800-645-8333 are available to connect you to food resources as well as provide you with information about elder meals programs and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. The Hotline will continue to operate Monday-Friday, 8am-7pm and Saturdays 10am-2pm, and can provide information in 160 languages.

I will be available in the district office from 2:00-6:00 P.M. on Wednesday March 18th for any families that have immediate concerns about providing meals for their children.

I am also available by email at [jdougal@hwrzd.org](mailto:jdougal@hwrzd.org) and would welcome input as we formulate a plan to provide meals to our free and reduced students going forward.

Thank you,

Julie Dougal, SNS

School Nutrition Director