Meals Being Delivered During School Closure

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March 15, 2020 – On March 12, 2020, the Georgia Department of Education received word from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that two waivers have been approved to extend alternate meal service flexibility in the case of extended closures due to COVID-19. This will allow schools to serve students meals through USDA-approved meal service options, at state-approved sites within the community.

One of our immediate concerns has been to make sure our students stay fed during our school closure. Our Buford City Schools (BCS) School Nutrition and Transportation Departments have developed a comprehensive plan to deliver breakfast and lunch to students at specific stops throughout our district. As we focus on the safety and well-being of our students, providing a healthy meal is a top priority. Our formal approval from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was granted on Saturday, March 14, 2020, which allows us to implement our meal distribution program beginning on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

“As soon as we realized we were eligible to feed students through this alternative method we began the process to get formal approval from the state Department of Education,” Megan Gower, Buford City Schools’ Director of Nutrition, stated. “Our main priority is to make sure our students are well fed at all times. It's amazing to see the nutrition and transportation employees come together with our community so quickly to ensure that our families are supported. We will do everything possible to make sure our students have the food they need during this difficult time.”

Our transportation department will travel to specific bus routes in our district to deliver meals each day. Also, there will be a drive-thru service at Buford Academy from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. each school day we are closed beginning on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. All youth that are 18 years or younger and are present at either location will be offered these meals.
“Being a school district with Title I schools brings different challenges in scenarios such as this,” Buford City Schools Superintendent Dr. Robert Downs said. “Our immediate thought-process was on our students with food-insecurity. I am extremely pleased with how quickly Megan Gower, our Director of School Nutrition, coordinated this plan to provide meals for our students during the closure. The willingness of our staff throughout the district to go the extra mile for our students is just another example as to what makes Buford a family.”