

Nebraska Rural Noncongregate Summer Meals: CRETE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



The rural non-congregate (RNC) Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) option allows eligible rural sponsors to distribute multiple meals at a time to children 1-18 through grab-and-go or delivery from an SFSP site. This is one sponsor's experience.



Where: Crete Middle School, Crete, NE

Who: Jodi Erickson, Nutrition Director, Crete Public Schools and Team

Model: Drive Thru Grab and Go

Distribution: Wednesdays from 4-5 pm in July only. "We chose 4-5 pm because we wanted a time when people were off work. We also didn't want to have to be there all day. :)" - Jodi

Meals: Bulk pickup, 4 days of breakfasts and lunches are provided at once. Alternating menus include frozen, shelf-stable, and perishable items.

Community Context: Crete, NE has a population of 7,488 but Crete Public Schools (enrollment 2,435) also serves six rural communities. 61% of students receive free or reduced price meals and over 500 students are served through English language classes.



I have 2 middle schoolers and one girl is going through a growth spurt. It's not because there's no money, it's because it's summer and it's hard to keep food in the house.

Amy O., parent

Participation: After a slow start, likely due to the 4th of July holiday, signups went from about 50 to 110 (each receiving 8 meals at one distribution). "The reimbursement, of course, is good so it's supportive financially, which is positive to our program." - Jodi

Staffing: 4 staff arrive at 3:30 pm to distribute by 4. Freezer, non-perishable, milk, and perishable items are combined into one large paper sack upon arrival. "The opportunity to put multiple meals together makes it easier for staff to do it where they're not committed to being here every day." - Jodi

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(translated from Spanish) "It's important for us because right now I am unemployed and it's a support they can give us for our kids."
Ana P., parent

Advertising and Outreach: Meals were advertised on the school's Facebook page in English and Spanish. Families were asked to sign up via google form (see below) between Thursday and Monday at noon for the distribution that upcoming Wednesday. This schedule gave staff time to pack the meals.

SUN MEALS **CRETE** NUTRITION SERVICES

Meal Sign Up

Weekly grab & go meals will be available from Crete Public Schools for any child 1-18 years of age. Sign up **ends noon on Monday prior to the Wednesday pick up**. Meals will be ready for pickup on July 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 between 4pm and 5pm. Families with students attending Crete Public Schools do not need children present at time of pickup. Families not attending Crete Public Schools must have children present to pickup meals.

Meals not picked up by 4:45pm will become available to any family.

esavaiano@neappleseed.org [Switch account](#)

* Indicates required question



Crete Public Schools
July 7 at 8:31 AM

REMINDER: Sign up today by noon to pick up meals on Wednesday, 7/9, between 4-5 pm at the Middle School back parking lot <http://bit.ly/4kj4sG9>

Grab and Go Meals!
¡Comidas para agarrar y llevar!

SUMMER
free meals
Comidas de Verano Gratis

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Julio 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Where can I learn more?

RNC is a permanent USDA program that community sponsors have the chance to participate in each summer. Reach out to Appleseed or NDE to ask questions or plan for a future site!

**Nebraska Department of Education
Nutrition Services:**
(P) 402-471-2488 or 800-731-2233
(Email) nde.nsweb@nebraska.gov

Additional Resources:
[Nebraska's New Rural Noncongregate Summer Food Option - Q&A for Potential Sponsors](#)

P. 402-438-8852
NEAPPLESEED.ORG



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