

Nebraska Rural Noncongregate Summer Meals: KEARNEY 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: Bryant Elementary School, Kearney, NE

Who: Shelia Sanford, Nutrition Director, Kearney Public Schools & Team

Model: Drive Thru or Walk Up Grab and Go

Distribution: Lunch distribution each day, 5 days a week - June thru mid-July from 11 am to 12:45 pm

Meals: Lunch is provided each day. In the future, staff plans to offer breakfast and lunch at a single pickup.

Community Context: Kearney, NE has a population of 34,362 while Kearney Public Schools has an enrollment of 6,152. Around 44% of students receive free or reduced price meals and several areas in town qualify based on area eligibility (over 50% of poverty). Kearney has a University of Nebraska Kearney, lots of factories and manufacturing, a conference hub, and agriculture.



“ Well we have 4 kids that we adopted out of foster care and you know it's busy and a lot. We go to therapy and ot and doctors appointments a lot so it's just helpful to have a grab and go lunch for time, it saves us on time and energy, it's good food I've seen a lot of good healthy options in the lunches and that's been very helpful for us as well. - Shari, parent ”

Staffing: 3 staff members prepare meals and distribute meals. Daily distribution also supports full time year round work.

Participation: Kearney Public Schools has 4 SFSP sites running each day - 2 congregate and 2 non-congregate. Congregate sites generally serve kids attending programs. At Bryant Elementary, around 200-215 lunches are distributed each day!

“It’s really important for the children to have this lunch, it’s a good lunch.”
Sandra E., parent

Advertising and Outreach: Meals were advertised on the school’s Facebook page in English and Spanish. A bilingual printed handout was also given to each student before school let out for summer. Although radio had been used in the past, they were not running this year. Staff noted the sites had been active long enough that families generally knew they were available.



Summer Food Service Program	
Free Hot Breakfast	Almuerzo caliente gratis
Monday through Friday June 2 through July 18 (closed July 4 for holiday) 7:45 am-9:00 am at Northeast Elementary and Bright Futures Preschool 18 & under eat FREE, Adults \$3	De lunes a viernes del 2 de junio al 18 de julio (Cerrado el 4 de julio por festivo) 11:00 am a 12:45 pm en Northeast Elementary & Bright Futures Preschool menos de 18 años comen GRATIS; Adultos \$5

English / Spanish

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](#)

