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For Immediate Release

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Free Meals Program for Children Extended Through June 24

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (May 14, 2020) – Families in need will be able to receive free meals for children ages 1 – 18 through Wednesday, June 24. The Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) Nutrition Services Department is expanding its service to both extend the program for five weeks after the last day of school and to expand the amount of food provided at each weekly distribution.

Beginning May 20, families will now be able to receive seven days of breakfasts and lunches for every child, up from five days' worth. "We worked with our suppliers to be able to secure enough food to keep the program going through June and to make sure that we provided food for the weekends, as well," says Nutrition Services Director Patti Bilbrey.

"We know that families in our community continue to have a need," adds Bilbrey. "This week, we served 19,820 meals. That puts us over the 130,000 mark for the number of meals distributed since we began this curbside service the week of March 16."

The free meals are distributed weekly, on Wednesdays, from 8 – 10 a.m. in a drive-up service at six different Scottsdale Unified school parking lots. Starting with next week's distribution, adults will be able to pick up a total of 14 meals per child each week: seven breakfasts and seven lunches. Schools hosting the curbside meal distribution service include:

- Mohave Middle School, 8490 E. Jackrabbit Rd., Scottsdale
- Navajo Elementary Oak Campus, 7501 E. Oak St., Scottsdale
- Redfield Elementary School, 9181 E. Redfield Rd., Scottsdale
- Tavan Elementary, 4610 E. Osborn Rd., Phoenix
- Tonalea K-8, 6720 E. Continental Dr., Scottsdale
- Yavapai Elementary, 701 N. Miller Rd., Scottsdale

"We also want to remind families that it is not too late to submit an application for free-and-reduced meals for their students," says Bilbrey. "Families that have had a change in their income or employment status can immediately submit an application by going to our website: www.susd.org/Meals. We are still taking applications for the current school year. The application for next school year will be available in July. However, the meal status as of the last day of school, May 21, will roll over to next year for a grace period of 30 days, or until a new application is submitted."

Bilbrey explains that once a family can demonstrate that it is eligible to receive free-or-reduced-cost meals, it may also be eligible for additional state or federal aid. The SUSD Nutrition Services

Department provides written letters of eligibility that families can use to help them qualify for other government and community-based aid programs.

“My best advice to families is to fill out our free application right away,” Bilbrey says.

For more information on the free meals for children program, and to complete an application for free-or-reduced-cost meals for the current school year and upcoming school year, please visit www.susd.org/Meals or call (480) 484-6234.

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About the Scottsdale Unified School District

Located northeast of metropolitan Phoenix, the District serves the educational needs of students and families of 23,000 students across 29 campuses. Approximately 240,476 people reside within its boundaries. The District’s award-winning academic, arts and athletic programs draw students from Phoenix, Paradise Valley, Fountain Hills, Tempe and Scottsdale. A highly experienced, professionally certified teaching staff fosters a diverse and rigorous educational environment to develop the potential in every individual learner. Offering gifted learning, special education, career and technical education, and a variety of athletics, arts and enrichment programs and clubs, SUSD provides the rich environment today’s students need to explore their interests, develop important social skills and grow into tomorrow’s leaders. For more information, visit www.susd.org and follow along on social media: [Facebook](#): @ScottsdaleUSD, [Twitter](#): @ScottsdaleUSD, [Instagram](#): @ScottsdaleUnifiedSD, [Nextdoor](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).