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PRESS RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

**FREE MEALS AVAILABLE TO ALL ENROLLED STUDENTS
STARTING SEPTEMBER 9, 2020**

USDA is extending flexibility to allow this opportunity

Pickens County School District is pleased to announce that effective Wednesday, September 9, 2020, all schools in the district will begin serving free breakfast and lunch meals to enrolled students. Students who purchased a school lunch between September 1 through 8, 2020, will be issued a credit on their meal account.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is extending flexibility to allow funding for schools to provide free breakfast and lunch meals **until December 31, 2020 OR until the emergency funds are depleted**. This allows the school nutrition program to serve nutritious meals to all students who attend in-person classes, as well as students enrolled in the Pickens Virtual Academy. Pickens Virtual families will need to complete the order form sent out each Wednesday morning in order pick-up meals.

Regular meal prices will resume once the emergency funding runs out (December 31, 2020 or when funds are depleted). We encourage families to complete an application for free and reduced meals. Lunch prices are as follows: Elementary, \$2.15; Middle and Junior High, \$2.40; and High School, \$2.45. Reduced price lunches are \$.40 for all grade levels.

We understand that these are trying times for everyone and are hoping this will relieve some of the financial hardship that is being felt by many in our community. If you have questions, please contact the School Nutrition Office at (706) 253-1700.

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