What are you doing to deliver/serve meals to your students?

What have been your main challenges?

What seems to be working reasonably well?

Responses Gathered by the

Council of the Great City Schools

As of March 27, 2020

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| City School Systems | Responses |
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| Albuquerque | Albuquerque is serving meals outside but have set up tents to provide some cover. |
| Anchorage | Using school buses to deliver meals on six routes.  All our meals served are provided frozen and the families take them home in a “take and bake” idea.    Point 2 is a specific concern of ours.  As staff fall out due to the reasons you cite, then the number of locations will shrink. |
| Atlanta | Atlanta is issuing both breakfast and lunch bags simultaneously on a two-tier run system that starts at 10:00 a.m. and concludes at 12:00 p.m. with two food supply runs in between.  Have concurrent partnerships with other food pantries and delivery organizations to expand our coverage to transitional students and homeless shelters.   Any undelivered meals go straight to our partners at the last stop who then deliver. |
| Aurora | Converted 4 Activity Buses (MFSAB's) to rolling kitchens to support the Meals on Wheels program which is completely staffed and supported by the Nutrition Services department. Being utilized to distribute free meals to anyone under the age of 18 at various sites throughout the district. |
| Austin | Doing both curbside pick-up (17 locations) and delivery by bus (to 54 locations).  Sites were chosen based on 50 percent or more students receiving meal benefits.   * Currently, we are giving out one breakfast and one lunch per child, per day. Weekend packs are 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches. Available for both children and parents. 11am-2pm, Monday-Friday * Families are recommended to complete a meal pre-order form for their preferred curbside or delivery site. * Curbside: Meals are cooked on site, chilled and dispersed from carts at the parent & bus drop off circles.  Families are not getting out of cars or entering buildings. * Bus site: Meals cooked at starting site (4 locations), chilled, packaged and served from bus. Families are encouraged to stand 6-ft apart in line. |
| Boston | Boston is serving grab 'n go meals curbside and walk-up in 16 locations. We are currently at 12% of participation. We provide the meals Monday through Friday with a combination of staff and volunteers. We have about 5,500 students that receive door to door transportation from home to school, so next week we are launching meal deliveries to those students and their siblings. We will be using our buses and bus monitors for assistance. It is all hands-on-deck! |
| Broward County | Like the San Diego model. We are offering drive-up/walk-up grab and go meals. Breakfast from 8-10am and lunch from 11am-1pm. We have launched in phases starting with nine sites during Phase-I. Most of our distribution locations are in the bus loops, which provide ample space for cars and social distancing (walk-up participants).  As we all know, this situation is unprecedented and fluid. For the current expansion (Phase-III), we focused efforts on broadening the countywide coverage of sites by having two schools in various Zones with high Free and Reduced Meal eligibility. Currently, we are laser-focused on opening thirty-six new locations on Monday, March 30th.  In anticipation of an ongoing emergency declaration, we are in the planning process for the next expansion phase. In addition to school-based sites, we are looking for additional ways to provide food distribution coverage. Engaging local community agencies including the United Way, Feeding South Florida and the Hunger Coalition, and other district assets (i.e., transportation services) are part of that planning. We review all planning options in the context of safety, security, and the efficient use of our limited resources as we strive to battle the food insecurity that so many of our students and families face every day. |
| Buffalo | We are up to 10,000 (34% of ADP) at 28 sites MWF. Giving 2 Lunch and 2 breakfast each day including Friday for Saturday - 6 Days of meals  We are set up in foyers providing one family at a time their meals, the rest wait outside. Children do not have to be present.  Volunteers are making home deliveries to 120 families or 360 children twice a week for the 5 days of meals  All of this was approved through waivers |
| Charleston | * Serving lunch and the following morning breakfast daily to about 10,000 students per day; will go to three day per week service next week. * Drive up service at 15 schools and 43 other sites delivered with buses. * Two other schools are used as central preparation sites for breakfasts. * All staff get temperature checked with temporal thermometer every workday, answer health questions with a health log maintained at each site. * Meals are not handed directly to parent/child, but they are transferred via a cart to maintain social distancing.   Cart is disinfected after each hand off. * Will add hot lunches from the menu next week. |
| Cincinnati | * CPS has 24 feeding hubs throughout the city that are outside in the parking lot/sidewalk area.  All schools are closed and locked. * Serving approximately 7% of our normal daily participation numbers. We offer 4 meals (2 bkft and 2 lunch) on Mondays and Wednesdays, and 2 meals (1 bkft and 1 lunch) on Fridays. * Have several community groups and foodbanks co-locating at our hub location offering non-perishable food boxes and toiletries to families. This serves as a wraparound of extra help for our families. * Biggest challenges: * The USDA requirement that a child must be present to receive a meal ... * Our dairy company invoking the force majeure clause in our contract and informing us milk prices would be rising sharply in May. |
| Clark County (Las Vegas) | Currently serving one breakfast and one lunch at the same time.  Service times are from 8am – 11am – drive through lines and we also service walk ups.  No access is permitted into the school.    Day 1 – 3/16/2020 – started with 21 sites (primarily HS locations) - 6 of the 21 sites were rural locations (50+ miles outside of Las Vegas) – served 3999 breakfast and 3999 lunches – roughly 3% of our normal participation    Day 2 – 3/17/2020 – 22 sites – we moved one rural site to another location and opened an additional location in a rural area – 8818 breakfast meals and 8818 lunch meals – roughly 6.8% or our normal participation    Day 3 – 3/18/2020 -added 6 additional sites for service starting this morning at 8:00AM at high school sites within the city – up to 28 sites:  served 13,887 breakfast and 13,887 lunches    Day 4 – 3/19/2020 – 28 sites – 16,167 breakfast and 16,167 lunches  Day 5 – 3/20/2020 – 28 sites – 18,576 breakfast and 18,576 lunches  Day 6 – 3/23/2020 – 28 sites – 20,903 breakfast and 20,903 lunches  Day 7 – 3/24/2020 – 28 sites – 21,777 breakfast and 21,777 lunches  Day 8 – 3/25/2020 – added an additional site – 29 sites – 24,480 breakfast and 24,480 lunches  Day 9 – 3/26/2020 – adding an additional 6 sites tomorrow – 34 sites in total |
| Cleveland | Created 22 meal sites at schools around the district and geographically created pick up locations at schools in the area to transport students to meal sites. Using a fog daily to disinfect buses. |
| Columbus (OH) | Columbus is serving in schools, at a location close to a door. |
| Dayton | Dayton Public provides a week's worth of breakfasts and lunches at 8 different sites each Wednesday.  Curbside pick up weather permitting, just inside the door with appropriate distancing practiced if weather is bad.  We also hand out book bags of supplies, puzzles, and books donated by United Way.  We deliver boxes of the weekly food to those who cannot pick up --we use bus routes/vans to deliver to those who requested. |
| Denver | Doing 12 sites across the city serving 3-5K a day, which is about 10% our usual meals. Adopting to changes and have been doing two slots 8-9AM and 12-1M to serve breakfast and lunch, and now moving to 11-12:30PM and serving both meals at same time.  Also allowing adults to pick up meals for kids and have implemented an online ordering process for big orders and requiring list of kids’ names. Now working to implement some type of transportation aspect to help deliver meals to more families. Have been paying 2x pay during our extended spring break, but it will move to regular pay once we implement remote learning which could cause employee satisfaction issues. |
| Des Moines | Food Service staff are delivering meals in their trucks. |
| Detroit | Has 58 schools open serving grab and go breakfast and lunches.  Identified 1484 of the most vulnerable students and are delivering a breakfast and lunch to each of these students and siblings in the household.  In all, we have approximately 2750 students being serviced at 1484 house stops on 67 buses.  Each bus route is delivering 20-25 stops. Each bus has a driver and another dedicated individual to take the food to the door. |
| Fresno | For the first three days of school closure (3/16-18), we served meals at all schools (103). Starting 3/19 we consolidated to 18 schools, mostly middle schools, based on geographic spread and greatest need/demand based on data from the first two days. We added a 19th school 3/25 to fill a gap in the central city area. We are also using a van to provide meal service to areas of town where is it unsafe for students to walk to a school due to drug and human trafficking. Schools are using different set-ups based on what works and the design of the school: parking lot drive-through, sidewalk drive-up, cafeteria walk-up, etc. School administrators are rotating to assist the Food Services staff, and Police Officers are at every school to assist, connect with the community, and provide a presence.    We serve 9-11am daily and provide breakfast and lunch together. We have a central kitchen and are packaging approximately 50,000 meals daily for delivery to the 18 schools. Our district is 100% CEP, as our community is highly disadvantaged with a student poverty rate of 88%. Our philosophy has been “we will provide what you ask for, but please take only what you need.” We told parents they do not have to bring their children, to minimize the number of people in line. We are counting students separately from adults with no children present. We are asking “how many children 1-18 are in your home?” to try to minimize the temptation to take more meals than needed. Academic resources are also being provided at the meal delivery sites.    Spring Break starts 4/6 and those are not contracted days for our staff, so we will be paying extra time for staff to work that week. There is tremendous community pressure to serve that week, even though we typically do not provide meals during Spring Break. We are the only agency capable of large-scale meal service and are doing our best to meet the needs of the community.    We are concerned about how we will continue meal service when a staff member at a school or at the central kitchen is diagnosed or presumed to have COVID-19. It is likely May 4 will be the earliest date school would resume. |
| Guilford County (Greensboro) | Utilizing Yellow Buses to deliver breakfast to McKinney Vento Families, Shelters, Hotels and Motels, Mobile and Satellite Sites |
| Hillsborough County (Tampa) | Hillsborough (Tampa) has operated grab and go service this week out of 23 feeding sites. Kids get breakfast and lunch at the same time. We do curbside drive up and have a walk-up/bike up station at each site. On Monday we served 14,600 meals and it’s grown each day. Today we served 25,112 meals. Next week we are going to open 147 sites total and add over 100 bus routes. |
| Indianapolis | Established locations at strategic points in the community to deliver boxed food in collaboration with a local food pantry. The pantry loads yellow buses which then distribute at each site. Paid particular attention to higher poverty areas and concentrated more food in those areas, which are also food deserts. |
| Jefferson County (Louisville) | We never served hot meals.  Our central kitchen helps us minimize the number of employees needed. We are creating a backup list of employees for our central kitchen and sites from our over 800 site-based employees.  JCPS is outside in the bus or car rider lane.  We purchased pop-up tents in case of inclement weather. We are producing all lunches at the central kitchen and are currently purchasing breakfast kits.  WE have a total of 69 sites (25 are mobile stops in neighborhoods). We are providing one breakfast and one lunch at the same time. Children must be present. Curious who else is operating that way.  Or state has requested a waiver.  We will begin multiple days’ pick up next week on M,W,F/2,2,1. We are currently feeding 18% of the students who normally eat breakfast with us and 11.6% of those that eat lunch.    I have asked out state to submit a waiver request allowing SFAs who were in the midst of their AR be excused from the on-site portion of the review.  They will submit and any help with that appeal is greatly appreciated.  Our on- site should have been this week. |
| Long Beach | Week 1:  The Long Beach Unified School District located in Southern California closed all schools Friday, March 13, 2020. Nutrition Services Branch (NSB) started serving meals Monday, March 16, 2020 both breakfast and lunch across all schools except one school (82) for our first week of service with separate serving times (includes Avalon aka Catalina Island; one hour off the mainland).    Week 2:  NSB closed 9 sites down to 73 serving sites due to lack of participation from the community.  Currently, we are serving 20,000 meals per day (40% of our ADP) during 1.5 hours of a lunch service time.  We eliminated the early morning breakfast hour.  Now we issue two meals at one time.  Our local city emergency preparedness response team requested our support with meal services for their emergency operations center (command post) for our first responders (police and fire services).  Homeless shelter feeding also starts today for 60 daily breakfast, lunch, and dinner 7 days a week.    Week 3:  NSB will close 39 sites after this Friday.  NSB will keep open indefinitely 34 sites evenly distributed throughout our district geographically.  This helps us pivot to help our city partners with meal services under our joint contingency plans to possibly serve more homeless shelters and more first responders that could include city employees and healthcare workers should the situation get worse.  Also, the closure of serving sites allows us to begin implementing a rotating schedule to mitigate exposure to our own front line and production center staff.  We have three contingent high schools that can be activated should we experience an increased demand for school meals or shelter meals.    Serving Styles:  NSB is using Monday-Friday grab and go models for drive-thru/curbside and walk-up distribution (typically located at gate or schools’ front doors).  Breakfast and lunch meals served at one time.    Communication:  Our district has recognized the need to maintain a high level of communication on social media and website to inform the public on recent developments and updates.  We have noticed the community is using Instagram more under the short video than long video.  Signage at our serving sites to educate on social distancing will be posted by next week.  This week our maintenance teams are completing the laying down of hashmarks (colored duck-tape) on the sidewalks as well.    Advocacy Needed:  All school meal operators need USDA to authorize and provide financial stability by paying out the same dollar value of reimbursement claims for each month as claimed in the previous fiscal year.  This will help all districts cover labor and emergency expenditures related to COVID-19.  If states are willing and able to cover district ADA funding so should USDA for all school meal programs.  At least three months’ worth (March, April, May). |
| Los Angeles | LAUSD is serving curbside as well.  We are serving at 64 centers and everything is going smoothly. |
| Milwaukee | Have *20 Stop, Grab and Go* food and educational material distribution sites that are spread across the city.  They are operational from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm.  The meal package includes a lunch with milks and breakfast items, for the following day.  We are averaging approximately 11,467 meals being distributed per day throughout the 20 sites |
| Minneapolis | Minneapolis Public Schools - beginning Monday March 30th the emergency food distribution will be transitioning to a weekly meal pick up consisting of boxes containing 10 meals per student (one week’s worth of two meals per weekday) at 50 designated sites, which will the current sites. During next week’s transition from daily to weekly pick up, the 20 current sites will continue to offer a daily meal pickup in addition to their designated day of weekly meals pick up until all sites are transitioned. There will be food pick up sites across the city at 10 locations each Monday – Friday, so if a family can’t access a site on Monday, for instance, they will be able to go to the active sites on Tuesday.  Additionally, medically fragile or homeless highly mobile students can request home delivery through our Homeless Highly Mobile office.    We’ve carefully considered the number of employees available to work in developing this plan and are continuing to take measures to keep employees safe while working and interacting with the public, particularly during Minnesota’s Stay at Home order. We are adding social distancing markers for the pickup sites, providing educational enrichment materials and reinforcing personal hygiene practices with our employees. We also partner with the Sheridan Story at approximately 20 locations for food to go home with students over the weekend and will have those resources available at food pick up sits as well.  All meal pickups are outside of our buildings.  No one is allowed insides any school buildings.  There is no congregate dinning provided, all meals are to be consumed of sites.    **MPS Food Service to Continue and Expand**  Starting Monday, March 30, 2020 meal distribution sites will be transitioning to weekly meal pick up consisting of boxes containing 10 meals per student.  And nearly 30 new sites will be added, resulting in close to 50 designated sites citywide, which will include all the current sites.  We will be publishing an expanded list and schedule before the end of this week.  Daily meal pick up will continue until through Friday, April 3 at the 20 original sites while they transition from daily to weekly.  [A current list of locations and times is always available on the MPS Culinary & wellness Services website.](https://cws.mpls.k12.mn.us/COVID19) |
| Nashville | We’re presently operating out of 15 sites with three supporting hubs. Additionally, we are running approximately 30 bus routes. All work is taking place 5 days a week for now. There is a consideration for reducing operating days. However, we have to work through complexities with refrigeration storage capacity and staffing. Participation at school sites has not been demandingly high. However, counts grow a little daily. There are plans to scale up as demand increases. We have many nonprofits/partnerships in Nashville providing similar services. MNPS served an average of 4,000 meals per day for the first week. This is 5% of our school year's participation. |
| Newark | Newark serves at the school entrance door or cafeteria door |
| Norfolk | Cold meals.  Central kitchen.  Approximately 370 site-based employees.  Some working.  Some on a substitute list.  Some sick or otherwise unavailable.  I’m concerned for the safety of the students and staff, but everyone is doing their best. |
| Oakland | Oakland is providing frozen and/or shelf stable meals only.  We are not cooking right now.  We have had to purchase bags to put the multiple meals inside for the grab and go model to be successful.  The bags are an added cost, we are trying to get donor funding to help offset the cost of OT for staff who are working, the increased cost of foods that are IW vs bulk and the cost of the bags.  Staff attendance is low, but we have an extraordinary number of volunteers who are really helping us out right now.  In addition to meals for children, we are providing meals for adults with donor funding and other services such as assistance with completing the application for unemployment, free art supplies, free library books, free feminine hygiene products, food for families from the food bank and produce from our school gardens.  We are working on adding diapers, dental care products and soap.  Oakland is serving outside the buildings are just inside the cafeteria doorway.  We are serving 3 days’ worth of breakfast and lunch meals on Mondays and 2 days’ worth of breakfast and lunch meals on Thursdays both days from 8 - 12.  I am trying to figure out how to add Supper and serve for reimbursement at the same as we are serving Breakfast and Lunch, but my state (CA) CACFP representative is telling me I can't provide Supper meals more than one meal per day and not alongside Breakfast and Lunch service. |
| Omaha | Omaha Public Schools is providing meals curbside and to any walk-up - one day per week - 5 breakfasts and 5 lunches - to minimize contact.  Nebraska received the waiver for non-congregate/multiple meals.  All the metro public schools are providing meals, either once per week (same as OPS) or each day (M-F).  The Food Bank is providing supper meals/back packs through the SFSP program also. |
| Orange County (Orlando) | Orange County is serving them curbside outside. |
| Palm Beach County | In Palm Beach County, FL we served the week of March 16th in 30 sites - grab and go in our parent pick up line.  We served breakfast and lunch through SSO.  This week was our Spring Break so we served a snack and a lunch at 29 sites under CACFP.  We have served over 150,000 meals so far.  Next week we are planning to operate under both SSO and CACFP in 35 schools and will be providing breakfast, lunch, supper and snack.  We have designed an A and B team to rotate one week on and one week off to give some staff a break. All staff are getting paid at this time. |
| Philadelphia | Philadelphia is distributing meals at entrance to schools either at front door or cafeteria area door. Currently 49 locations. We are maintaining safe distance levels among parents/students/staff.  We are distributing meals 2 days per week (Monday and Thursday) 3 breakfasts and 3 lunches per student each day. |
| Pittsburgh | Food Service staff are delivering meals in their trucks. |
| Portland | Portland (OR) has 15 sites with walk up or drive-thru, 11am-1pm, one breakfast and one lunch provided to each child.  We started on Tuesday last week, ran through Friday and served 30,600 meals total.  We are serving outside of the schools where I had identified the least amount of issues for traffic flow.  We used canopy tents from our Parks & Rec, but we are now switching to tents from our bureau of emergency management.  We are hoping to have multiple tents next week not only due to rain but also to encourage social distancing, along with signage and cones to demonstrate 6 feet.  No one is allowed in the school buildings except the custodian and Nutrition Services staff. |
| Richmond | Richmond City is distributing meals curbside, at front’s door as drive by and walk in’s to lobby. We are also distributing via buses on bus routes. And today VDOE is providing guidance and form for home deliveries with parent consent form. We are still waiting patiently for details and documentation. |
| Sacramento | Implemented curb-side delivery at all schools.  We typically serve approx. 41,000 meals per day with Suppers and Childcare included.    Yesterday we served 24,000 meals curbside at 31 schools from 8am-12:30 pm and at 14 locations in vans from 4:30-6pm.    This Friday we will serve our students their usual Breakfast and Lunch and a Frozen Pizza to go with fruit, milk & veg.  This will be counted for Sat meals.  That’s our plan.  We are including food safety cooking instructions. |
| San Diego | San Diego is serving drive-up/walk-up grab and go meals.  Currently operating 13 locations.  We are providing today’s lunch and tomorrows breakfast in one bag.  We also have partnered with the local Food Bank and Feeding San Diego to provide produce and other food items at the same location.  We have been relying on district employees (non-food service workers) to volunteer to assist in the distribution.  School Police is also present at each site to assist with traffic flow, etc.   The local Humane Society is also offering a limited supply of dog and cat food to distribute at our locations.  We have signage to “extend arm from vehicle to receive food” and another sign to keep 6 ft distance between families that are in walk-up lines.  I think it is going to become more and more difficult to have enough employees show-up to carry this out – whether it is illness, caring/concern for family members, or fear of exposure, etc. |
| St. Louis | We have 27 sites and 6 prep kitchens. We are also working with the transportation department. They deliver the breakfast/lunch sacks to the schools. We started Monday 23. Our numbers are increasing every day.  We also will have security at our sites.  SLPS will start outside distribution on Monday March 30 |
| St. Paul | Saint Paul is outside on school curb sides, at bus routes, and some home delivery.  Using our same bus routes to deliver meals once a week on Wed, Thur & Fridays. Also have community pickup spots at 6 sites. Have been serving about 42,000 meals a day, three times a week. Each student gets a box with 5 breakfast and 5 lunch included.  I invite you to visit the video and description of St. Paul’s Meal Service Plan During the COVID-19 School Closure.    [https://www.spps.org/Page/38722](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.spps.org%2FPage%2F38722&data=02%7C01%7Cjulia.bauscher%40jefferson.kyschools.us%7Ca97d0a590dd641cbd6ad08d7d24942b8%7C277d564c30a94bcea18dafc8e54540e5%7C1%7C0%7C637209084411532108&sdata=Ywq5TpbRbwWLV7kJS%2BiuLv2f0vLQHIwjVrxUcsFpgl8%3D&reserved=0) |
| Stockton | Stockton Unified is serving curbside as a drive thru. We have a lot of families that are also walking, so we have a spot designated for walk ups and staff making sure families stay 6 feet apart. |
| Toledo | In Toledo Public Schools we are offering meals Monday to Friday at 8 sites. Drive thru only. Breakfast and Lunch in one pick up. |