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PROMOTING QUALITY CHILD CARE

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There are school meal alternatives during school closures. Most schools and other eligible local community organizations have become a summer meal site. The summer meal program is a very flexible program and is operated by the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). The food program allows for all kids/teens, 18 and younger, to eat for free (no paperwork is required). Many of the program regulations have been waived to make this program more streamlined and useful during COVID-19, including area eligibility. Summer meal sites are reimbursed for the meals they serve through USDA and it's up to every site to determine:

- the location for grab n' go meals,
- the type of service (i.e. daily/bulk service),
- type of delivery (i.e. standalone site for pick up, drop off following the bus route, delivery to homes, etc.),
- type of food offered, types of meals and timing (typically breakfast and lunch), and
- the number of service days per week (i.e. can serve meals 7 days/week).

OPI has now approved **311 summer meal sites** across the state. **See map and list of sites** <u>here</u>. There's also a texting line that just went live and you just need to **text 'FOOD' to 877-877** and it will text you the 3 closest summer meal sites to the address provided.

The summer meal sites are going above and beyond to meet the needs of their community.