

District providing free meals to children and teens during the summer

Children 18 years old and younger can receive free breakfast and lunch during the summer months through the Alachua County Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services department.



The Summer Meals Program, funded by the federal government, is open to any child regardless of family income. The meals are served at local schools and several other sites, including the City of Gainesville's Summer Heat Wave program at the MLK Recreational Center, the Boys and Girls Clubs. The ACPS On Point Food Truck program will bring meals to three locations in the South West Advocacy Group (SWAG) area, including Hidden Oaks, Majestic Oaks and the SWAG Family Resource Center.

New sites this year will include four UF Health locations. Children do not have to be enrolled at a particular school or program to receive meals. They also don't have to be eligible for free and reduced price meals during the regular school year to take advantage of the program.

The Summer Meals Program provides nutritionally balanced meals to all children during summer vacation when school breakfasts and lunches are not available. All children 18 years old and younger are eligible, and families can take advantage of the program at any of the 81 local sites.

"Families can take their children to the site that's most convenient for them," said Maria Eunice, Director of the district's Food and Nutrition Services department. "They just show up during the serving times and enjoy a nutritious meal, with no registration required."

Most sites will be up and running on June 4th. The rest will start up June 6th. The dates and times that meals will be served will vary from site to site. Details are available at www.acpsfood.com (click on the yellow box labeled 'Free Summer Meals') or by calling (352) 955-7539.

####

The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)