



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Georgia's At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program Available to Eligible Schools

Institutions are reimbursed for serving nutritious after-school snacks or supper meal

Atlanta, Ga (February 27, 2019) – Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) announces that schools offering an after-school program with educational or enrichment activities may be eligible to participate in the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). This program reimburses institutions that serve nutritious after-school snacks and/or a supper meal to children up to 18 years old in a structured environment after-school.

“Schools can be an ideal place to host afterschool programs and serve meals,” said Sonja Adams, director of Provider Services for DECAL’s Nutrition Division. “They have the facilities, equipment, staff, and skills needed to prepare and serve food. With extracurricular activities already occurring at many schools, an after-school meal or snack is a natural fit.”

With one in six families struggling with hunger, many feel financially stretched providing nutritious food for their children to eat after school. According to a survey administered by No Kid Hungry, a campaign that engages the public to make ending child hunger a national priority, a quarter of low-income parents worry that their children don’t have enough to eat between lunch at school and breakfast the following day. The CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program allows educational and enrichment programs to provide children with the nutrition they need to keep learning, growing, and playing after the final bell rings.

Institutions may qualify to participate in the At-Risk Afterschool component of the CACFP if at least half of the students at the school are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, or if the school is within the attendance boundary of a public school that meets the threshold.

Qualifying eligibility data can be found on DECAL's website at <http://decalfga.gov/Nutrition/EligibilityData.aspx>.

To learn more about participating in the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), contact Cindy Kicklighter at cindy.kicklighter@decalfga.gov or 404-656-3221.

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About Bright from the Start

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages the voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.decalfga.gov.