



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

www.dpi.nc.gov

September 28, 2023

Dear School Nutrition Colleagues:

As the possibility of a Federal Government shutdown continues to loom, we want to share information from the USDA's Contingency Plan for the School Nutrition Programs in the event of a shutdown as a result of a lapse in appropriations. This attached document was retrieved from the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service's website.

According to the plan, and consistent with prior shutdowns, the Child Nutrition Programs are "excepted" from the shutdown. "Excepted programs" are continued as essential Federal activities and core programs that support the national nutrition safety net. Federal reimbursement funds will continue to flow to the State agencies for reimbursement to eligible School Food Authorities. As stated in the USDA Plan, these funds will continue to the extent that funds are available to support the programs. The USDA has not issued a statement at this time; we will keep you informed of any information we receive from our federal partners.

We would also like to remind you the State of North Carolina will begin its transition to a new financial management system. The preparation for this transition has been underway for two years. This transition will impact every department of State government, including the Department of Public Instruction. The transition will require all financial transactions to cease beginning October 5th and continuing through October 9th. No claims for reimbursement will be processed during this "blackout" period. You may enter the district's claim for reimbursement at any time in the School Nutrition Technology System, but reimbursement checks will not be issued until the NC Financial System is fully operating after October 10th.

Thank you for your patience with these processes over the next few weeks. Should you have questions, please share them, in writing with your Area Consultant, who will forward them to the Raleigh office. Please forward this message to your Superintendent or other appropriate personnel so all are well-informed.

We appreciate your continued commitment to support your students, families, and communities!

Gratefully and respectfully,

Lynn Harvey

LH:JJ:dm

OFFICE OF SCHOOL NUTRITION

Lynn Harvey, *Ed.D., RDN, LDN, FAND, SNS, Senior Director* | lynn.harvey@dpi.nc.gov

6324 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6324 | (984) 236-2910

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