



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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**TO:** School Nutrition Administrators

**FROM:** Lynn Harvey, Chief  
School Nutrition Services

**DATE:** September 7, 2017

## **PROVIDING MEALS TO STUDENTS WHO RESIDE IN OR ARE EVACUATED FROM DISASTER AREAS**

While the path of Hurricane Irma continues to be uncertain, families are quickly evacuating from neighboring States to North Carolina. Students who reside in or are evacuated from disaster areas may be deemed homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and, as such, are categorically eligible for free meals at school. In order to ensure any student who evacuates to our State and attends or enrolls in a school is immediately eligible for free meals at school, we are coordinating with the State's Homeless Liaisons/Coordinators to make the identification of homeless students a seamless and uncomplicated process.

To this end, we are asking for your cooperation to do the following:

1. Please notify all Principals of this provision that allows for free meals at school for students impacted by the disaster; encourage them to coordinate with the district and/or school-based McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act designee.
2. Ask Principals to notify their School Nutrition Manager immediately of any student who is an evacuee or has otherwise been displaced by the disaster; notification should be made in writing (via e-mail, informal memo or other means). The School Nutrition Manager will provide meals to students "on the spot" with no questions asked as long as they are identified, in writing, by the Principal.
3. Instruct Principals to maintain a list of students impacted the disaster which may be used by the homeless liaison to officially certify the students as homeless, when appropriate.
4. Remind Principals of their authority to complete household applications for free and reduced-price meal benefits for students if the household has not applied for assistance.
5. Coordinate any other food-related disaster assistance with your School Nutrition Administrator.

The attached USDA Policy Memorandum provides details about the possible approaches available to communities to provide food assistance before, during and in the aftermath of a natural disaster. Additional information will be provided to School Nutrition Administrators over the next few days. We are ready to assist you and seek Federal waivers on your behalf should conditions warrant in the next few days. Should you have questions or need additional information, please let me know. I may be reached at [Lynn.Harvey@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Lynn.Harvey@dpi.nc.gov) or by cell at (919) 601-1405.

Thank you, in advance, for your work to support students, families and communities during this challenging time.

LH:dm

### **SCHOOL NUTRITION SERVICES SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS SUPPORT DIVISION**

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