Unanticipated Closure Press Release- SFSP Meal Service

Charter Oak –Ute Community School District to Serve Meals to Children During School Closure

The closure to the Charter Oak-Ute Community School District due to the COVID-19 virus could be especially tough for families who receive free and reduced-price meals at school. It could mean hunger for many students. To help fight the hunger, the Charter Oak-Ute School is teaming with the Summer Food Service Program to provide free meals during the school closure.

All children ages 0-18 are eligible for free meals at open sites through this program. The meals are available to all children, regardless of whether they qualify for free or reduced-price lunch during the school year. Charter Oak-Ute School will be providing meals at 3 sites:

Charter Oak-Ute south cafeteria doors Charter Oak, Iowa 3:00-3:45

Old Elementary School Ute, Iowa 3:00-3:45

City Hall Soldier, Iowa 3:00-3:45

Last week, the Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue announced proactive flexibilities to allow meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. During an unexpected school closure, schools can leverage their participation in one of USDA’s summer meal programs to provide meals at no cost to students. Under normal circumstances, those meals must be served in a group setting. However, in a public health emergency, the law allows USDA the authority to waive the group setting meal requirement, which is vital during a social distancing situation.

These flexibilities have made it possible for school districts who may not otherwise qualify for the program to provide meals through the Summer Food Service Program during unanticipated closures due to COVID-19.