

**Dear East Palestine City Schools Families**,

The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture recently announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will extend several flexibilities for school meals throughout the remainder of 2020. The USDA stated, "As our nation reopens and people return to work, it remains critical our children continue to receive safe, healthy, and nutritious food." With this notification sent out to districts on September 2, 2020 we immediately started to serve complete reimbursable breakfast and lunch to all children for free (a la cart items still remain at a cost). Bulldog On-Line Academy students can pick up meals every Monday from 9:30am-10:30am behind the High School / Middle School at the MS-9 entrance. Monday October 12th School is not in session, pick-ups can be made on Tuesday October 13th. Please fill out the on-line meal request form each week that you want to pick up meals. The link to the form is on the district website.

At this time the free meals for all students will only run until December 31, 2020 or until funding is no longer available at which time statuses will return to Paid, Free and Reduced rates based on qualifications and applications, so please continue to return free and reduced meal applications as soon as possible to avoid any gap in benefits.

We remain committed to providing students access to healthy, nutritious and wholesome meals while assuring the utmost food safety without compromising quality.

Thank you!

Jennifer Schiraldi, Food Service Director



## Students Eat for Free! All kids under

18 years old.





