



Nicole Blodgett &lt;nbodgett@panaschools.com&gt;

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**Fwd: Free Meals for Children in Rural Communities**

1 message

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**Jason Bauer** <jbauer@panaschools.com>  
To: Nicole Blodgett <nbodgett@panaschools.com>

Sun, Apr 19, 2020 at 11:47 AM

May Board Meeting

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools** <execdir@airssedu.org>

Date: Sat, Apr 18, 2020 at 6:28 PM

Subject: Free Meals for Children in Rural Communities

To: &lt;jbauer@panaschools.com&gt;

**ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS RURAL AND SMALL SCHOOLS****COMMITTED TO THE RURAL ADVANTAGE****All AIRSS Members - Free and Reduced Eligible,**

In partnership with the National Rural Education Association (NREA), AIRSS and many other rural associations are invited to participate in this important program and service to rural schools, children and families.

Take a look at the information below, make this information available to your families and allow them to engage the process for support through the Emergency Meals to You program. In this difficult and challenging time every additional support is important. This initiative is a first come first serve program.

David M. Ardrey - Executive Director  
Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools

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# Free Meals for Children in Rural Communities

In the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, McLane Global has launched Emergency Meals-To-You – a public-private partnership between USDA, Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty, PepsiCo and others – designed for home delivery of shelf-stable, nutritious meals to students in rural areas missing school due to closures.

The Emergency Meals-To-You program was established to ensure kids don't go hungry during this difficult time. As such, McLane, together with its partners, is working to deliver at least 1 Million Meals a week to children in rural communities who don't have access to meals. Meal kits include two weeks' worth of nutritious, shelf-stable foods such as milk, cereal bowls, snacks, entrees, fruit cups and juices for one student.x

To be eligible to participate in the program, school districts must meet the following requirements:

- Participate in the National School Lunch Program,
- Have at least 50% of enrollment eligible for free or reduced-priced meals,
- Have an announced closure of at least four weeks (not counting spring break), and
- Fall under the designation of rural area (can be checked [here](#)).

Students in qualifying school districts who were receiving free or reduced priced meals through the National School Lunch Program are eligible to participate in the program. School districts will reach out to families with more information and instructions for signing up, but parents are also encouraged to visit [MealsToYou.org](https://MealsToYou.org) and proactively register their children to receive free, nutritious meals. Once a school district is enrolled, a student who signs up for the program can expect to start receiving meals delivered to their home in about one week. Each student who is enrolled in a household will receive their

own meal kit.

Distribution and delivery have already begun, and partners are ramping up quickly to reach the goal of providing more than 1 Million Meals per week across rural America.

Help us by spreading the word and making sure that your local school district is signed up so that students can benefit from the program.



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