

September 22, 2020

Dear Barnum Parents/Community,

I am sending out this communication to all the Barnum parents and community to update you on a change we will implement in Food Service. [\*The U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) Food and Nutrition Service \(FNS\) released a new memo about operating the Summer Food Service Program \(SFSP\) or Seamless Summer Option \(SSO\) through December 31, 2020, or earlier if funding is exhausted.\*](#)

The Barnum Schools can provide free meals to our students until the money for this free food program runs out. I want to emphasize that the free meals will not last the entire school year. The deadline is either December 31, 2020, or earlier if money for the program is exhausted. There was no notification given on when the money may run out, so I can not tell you when the program will end and we have to go back to the normal food service program.

The Barnum Schools are moving forward with setting up the meal program and our planned date to begin is October 5, 2020. I need your help to put the pieces in place:

- **Distance Learners** - If you choose to pick up free meals, please call the High School at 218-389-3273, ext.1007 or the Elementary School at 218-389-6976, ext.1016 by September 29. Meals must be picked up at the District Office doors at the Barnum HS on Monday and Wednesdays from 9-10am.
- **In-Person Learners** - Now have the option of free breakfasts and lunches. You do not have to notify the school.
- The free meal Food Service program runs to either December 31, 2020 (Dec. 22 for Barnum as that is our last school day in 2020) or until the funds are exhausted.

The USDA has suggested no timeline but we will notify the families of our district if funds are exhausted. We realize this program will help out many students and families but wanted to ensure all the pieces were in place before announcing we could move forward with this program including proper food storage, ordering of extra supplies, and the personnel to service the extra work. Again, Distance Learners who wish to pick up free meals must call either the BES or BHS Office as soon as possible to be added.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mike McNulty - Superintendent  
Barnum Public Schools