



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS OPPORTUNITY ADVISORY

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MEDIA CONTACT: Nancy Rodriguez

Office: (502) 564-2000, ext. 4610 | **Cell:** (502) 330-5063 | **E-mail:** nancy.rodriquez@education.ky.gov

FIRST LADY HELPS KICK OFF SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

(Frankfort, KY) – First Lady Jane Beshear will join Lexington Mayor Jim Gray and others tomorrow to kick off the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in Kentucky. The event begins at 11:30 a.m. near the pool at Castlewood Park in Lexington; the program will start at noon. In case of rain, the event will take place at a shelter on the opposite side of the park. This is one of three events being held across the state this week to mark the beginning of the annual summer feeding program.

During the school year, more than a half-million Kentucky students eat breakfast, lunch or both meals at school – often for free or at a reduced price. They count on these meals to keep their stomachs full and their minds active. When school is out for the summer, many children do not have access to healthy, nutritious meals. Lack of nutrition during the summer months may set up a cycle for poor performance once school begins again and make children more prone to illness and other health issues. The SFSP is designed to fill that nutrition gap and make sure children get the nutritious meals they need.

This summer, 1,600 sites across 105 Kentucky counties will provide more than 2 million breakfasts, lunches and snacks to more than 20,000 of Kentucky's neediest children. Children 18 years old and younger are eligible for the free, nutritious meals.

To locate a feeding site, call the National Hunger Hotline at 1-866-3HUNGRY or 1-866-348-6479.

More than 150 businesses, schools, local government agencies, churches and community organizations sponsor feeding sites in support of the Summer Food Service Program in Kentucky. The program is federally funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and is administered by the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of School and Community Nutrition.

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