

Summer Food Service Program Meadow Point Elementary School Aurora, CO



In summer 2019, Meadow Point Elementary School was one of three Cherry Creek schools to pilot and host a summer food service program. This program ran from May through July, Monday through Friday, from 11-1. The service provided daily lunches at no cost to children 18 and younger and a small fee for adults. The lunches included a main entree, fresh fruits, vegetables, and milk. In addition to the summer lunch program, Meadow Point also offered a summer market. The summer market let Cherry Creek School District (CCSD) families shop for fresh produce and a variety of pantry staples at no extra cost.

Meadow Point is a Title I school, with over 54% of students eligible for free and reduced lunches. Many of the families are on a fixed income, which adds a financial and emotional strain on families over the summer when students can't receive meals at school.



Because of the pilot's success in CCSD, the Summer Food Service Program was able to continue and grow during the difficult times of COVID-19. As the school year turned to remote learning, the district felt it was crucial to still provide students with school lunches. In the beginning, lunch was distributed Monday through Friday and then changed to a Monday, Wednesday, Friday distribution to lessen interaction and allow social distancing. Breakfasts were also added.



On distribution days, kids received two days' worth of breakfasts and lunches at a time along with fresh produce Friday's where they received frozen yogurt and an extra bag of produce. On average, 250-300 children received meals through this program.

Meadow Point's family engagement liaisons, Joei Sayers, shares: "Some days, this job tugs at my heartstrings and it pushes me to do more other days my heart is full of joy because I know our hard work is paying off and I know we have been a blessing to someone."

Sayers continues: "I have been told by many parents that the summer lunches lightened the burden of providing those daily meals and it was immensely appreciated. I personally wanted to see how the program was benefiting our district's families, so I stopped in for lunch a few times over the summer with my children and the turnout was always great. The families also loved the addition of shopping at the summer market and the fact that there was fresh produce all at no extra cost."

