



**NDSBA**  
NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL  
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

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## **INFORMATION RE: SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (SFSP) POLICY STATEMENT**

With additional public schools taking on the incredible task of keeping their students and families food-secure during the school closure period, NDSBA is committed to providing accurate information when requested to assist in this important effort. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) was created to serve nutritious meals to children when the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program meals are not available. To ensure that all children receive the proper nutrition throughout the year, SFSP reimburses sponsoring organizations that prepare and serve meals to eligible children during the summer. This Program has been expanded to permit service of meals to our students and their families during the school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

One question that has been raised with NDSBA is whether local school boards must adopt a specific policy statement in order to become a sponsoring organization. NDDPI requires all sponsoring organizations to complete certain application materials in order to become a sponsor. Information regarding the eligibility and application requirements can be found on NDDPI's website under the "Child Nutrition and Food Distribution" page (<https://www.nd.gov/dpi/districtschools/child-nutrition-and-food-distribution/summer-food-service-program-sfsp>). Specifically, each sponsoring organization is required to complete a form "Free Meals Policy Statement" (SFN 52266) to be submitted along with its application/program materials. This statement confirms that the sponsor will not engage in discriminatory practices on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or disability in connection with its operation of the Program and agrees to announce this commitment in a press release to the media.

NDSBA has developed template IB policy covering Child Nutrition Food and Food Service Programs regulated by the USDA. The template IB policy already includes the subject matter of the policy statement regarding the prohibition against discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or disability. If your district's board has adopted this template policy, it likely would not be required to take any further board action to confirm its adherence to this policy in connection with becoming a sponsoring organization under the SFSP. If a public school district is already a sponsor in the SFSP, NDSBA understands that the policy statement would not need to be resubmitted to NDDPI each year. It is only required at the outset of becoming a sponsor. However, if a public school is seeking to become a first-time sponsor in the Program, the policy statement will need to be signed by an authorized representative and submitted along with the other required Program materials. The authorized representative for the district would likely be the district superintendent or individual designated by the board in the IB policy to handle eligibility requirements.