

# Summer Support to Share with Families



## An Educator's Guide to Supporting Students' Health, Safety, and Enrichment in the Summer

This guide is intended to help you locate and compile resources in your community that provide food, child care, and enrichment opportunities for students over the summer months. You'll find national resources that may be available in your area, as well as suggestions for finding local resources.

No teacher can be everywhere, all the time – but if you feel compelled to send your students into the summer with a bit of extra care, you might use this guide to compile information applicable to your community and share it with parents. You'll boost school-community relations while helping your learners! When planning to send your resource out to parents and families, perhaps through email or a flyer to send home with students, be sure to reflect on how your communications can be accessible and culturally responsive for the families in your community.

### Food Resources

During the school year, millions of children rely on free lunch programs. Over the summer, many of these students are still in need of food assistance.

### National Resources

- [No Kid Hungry](#) - All across the country, schools and community groups run summer meals sites where kids can eat breakfast and lunch for free. No Kid Hungry helps local organizations launch and operate these sites, and they also help fund needed equipment like [mobile meals trucks](#). No Kid Hungry runs a summer meals texting service. You can text 'FOOD' to 304-304 to find free summer meals sites in their neighborhoods.
- [Feeding America](#) - The Feeding America nationwide network of food banks operates several summer food service programs during the summer that seek to serve students who need food service. These programs help meet the needs of low-income children and their families who face

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hunger in the summer by providing them with nutritious meals and snacks when school is not in session. You can find a local partner [HERE](#).

- [USDA Food and Nutrition Service - Summer Food Service Program](#) - The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally- funded, state-administered program. SFSP reimburses program operators who serve free healthy meals and snacks to children and teens in low-income areas. You can look for a site near you [HERE](#).

## Local Suggestions

- [United Way](#) - Connecting with your local United Way can be an excellent way to learn about programs you may be unaware of in your community. They may have insight into foodservice programs your students and their families could utilize.
- **Local Religious Organizations** - Many religious organizations host a free weekly meal. If you have time, reach out to several in your area and ask if this is a service they provide and compile a list of the organizations and the day of the week they serve.

## Child Care Resources

Students spend a majority of their day at school and many are transported to school by the school bus. When summer comes, many parents must figure out where to send their child during the day and how to afford it. [Some estimates](#) suggest that low-income American families spend nearly 35% of their income on childcare.

## National Resources

- [The Salvation Army](#) - The Salvation Army hosts summer camps throughout the United States for children of low-income households. You can search for camps near you [HERE](#).
- [Care.com Nanny Share](#) - Many parents rely on the school bus to transport their child every day. Without it, some parents struggle to transport their children to and from a summer care facility. Creating what is termed a “nanny share” allows for multiple parents from the same neighborhood to hire a nanny together. Sharing a nanny that comes to a particular neighborhood home, or rotates homes in the neighborhood, eliminates the need for transportation and keeps costs down. You can learn more at the link above.

## Local Suggestions

- **Your District** - Districts that offer before and after school services sometimes offer summer child care services as well. The district may be able to provide scholarships or discounted rates for families in need. Check with your district to find out what their offerings are. [HERE](#) is an example from a district in Ohio.
- **Local YMCA** - Most YMCA locations offer summer camps to both members and non-members. While they can be pricey, some also offer scholarships to families in need to cover the cost. You can check your local YMCA to see if assistance is available for your students.

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- **Local Parks & Recreation Departments** - Some parks & recreation departments across the country offer summer camp services at affordable rates (although, many are out of reach for many families). Check yours to see what may be available. [HERE](#) is an example of one in Ohio.

## Safety & Enrichment

Safety & enrichment tend to be more difficult to navigate as they are not as tangible. When it comes to safety, communities can support each other by ensuring parents are knowledgeable about leaving children home alone, or making resources available in case of emergency or unsafe living environment.

### Safety

- [Leaving Children Home Alone](#) - A safety guide for parents of children old enough to stay by themselves.
- **Your Local Police Station Number** - While 9-1-1 is universal for emergencies, your resource could provide parents and students with the non-emergency number as well for your specific area.
- **Domestic Violence Hotline** - 1-800-799-7233
- **Child Protective Services** - Find the phone number for your state [HERE](#).

### Enrichment

- **Fun Summer Work** - Sending students home with resources to keep their mind engaged may be a great way to help them retain information and receive enrichment over break. Worksheets related to class content and word puzzles can be simple to print off and send home with them for summer. You can find a variety of activities on our [Free Resources page](#).
- **Books**- Many local bookstores, used bookstores, and libraries donate books. Prior to the end of the year, reach out to these organizations and see if it's possible to obtain 20-60 age-appropriate books donated to send home with your students for the summer, or if there are any existing programs in which students can enroll.