

Jamesburg Jumps on Board with Summer Meals



Jamesburg was one of the few New Jersey districts that opted to begin participating in SFSP in 2019. The district hosted one site — an elementary school — and served breakfast and lunch each weekday throughout most of the summer.

The school operates summer camps and Extended School Year. Since the district was already feeding the children who attended those programs, participating in SFSP was a “no brainer,” says Nick Mackres, assistant school business administrator.

While the paperwork was more onerous than he expected, the extra reimbursements have helped to improve overall food service.

“I was spending \$10,000 on summer meals feeding our children,” Mackres notes. “Now, with the federal reimbursements, I’m able to provide better food that improves my program.”

Being able to operate an open site and just “click kids through” was another real benefit of the program, he added, although he is still working on ways to attract more children from the community.

“It was a win-win,” Mackres says. “I was able to serve better food, improve our High Five Summer Camp Program, and it feels good to feed our children healthy meals.”

