



Notice of Event & B-roll/photo op

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South Bay Union School District Receives National Recognition

Summer meals program recognized by the USDA for excellence.

San Diego, July 2, 2019 – From June through July, South Union Bay School District (SBUSD) serves over 800 meals per day to children and youth under 18 years of age throughout the South Bay region of San Diego County. Also known as *Seamless Summer Option*, SBUSD's summer meal program, started in 2010, was **recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture** (USDA) with their *2019 Turnip the Beet* Gold award which recognizes outstanding Summer Meal Program sponsors for their work offering high-quality meals that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious. SBUSD is one of 3 in California and 15 in the entire nation to receive Gold recognition.

Media Invitation

Summer BBQ Event with South Bay Union School District

When: Wednesday, July 10, 2019, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Where: Cesar Chavez Community Center, 455 Sycamore Rd, San Ysidro, CA 92173

What: A chance to get interviews with volunteers, professionals, and participants, and b-roll of a summer meal service in action by the nationally recognized South Bay School District.

Please RSVP with Joe Shumate to attend this event: joseph@sdhunger.org

SBUSD's summer meals are provided during the 2019 summer break at 3 school sites, 6 parks and recreation centers, and 1 community center, all of which are open free of cost to youth 18 and under with no enrollment required and no questions asked. SBUSD makes their summer meals stand out by offering **culturally appropriate food in community-oriented locations** alongside special activities such as Zumba, live music, free curated samples of fresh farm produce, fire department meet and greets, and produce and food distribution by Feeding San Diego.

SBUSD also hosts BBQs at a different summer meal site each week. The next BBQ will take place at the **Cesar Chavez Community Center on July 10th**. San Diego children and their families are welcome to attend, food will be available for purchase by attendees over the age of 18.

About Seamless Summer Option

The Seamless Summer Option is a program that allows school districts to serve free nutritious meals in low-income communities to youth ages 18 & under during summer breaks. These meals may be reimbursed by the federal government through funding provided by the United States Department of Agriculture. Summer meals help children who rely on school meals to get enough healthy food to eat during the summer break. According to San Diego Hunger Coalition research, in 2016 over 200,000 eligible kids missed summer lunch and our communities missed out on over \$21 million in federal reimbursements through summer meal programs.

Through its Hunger Free Kids initiative, San Diego Hunger Coalition provides free, hands-on support and ongoing guidance for schools, community-based organizations, and individuals who want to end child hunger.

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For more information on summer meals, please visit www.sdhunger.org/summer-meal-program or contact Joe Shumate, Communications Officer, at joseph@sdhunger.org.