



VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

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Dr. Unal Karakas
Superintendent of Schools

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June 24, 2026

Dear Parents or Guardians,

For many children, summertime means food, friends and fun. For families who count on school breakfast and lunch, however, the summer months can be stressful and family food budgets have to be stretched even further. Free summer meals, funded by the USDA, are available to children and teens ages 18 and younger at summer meals sites across Long Island, NY.

Many summer meals sites offer fun learning and recreational activities so children and teens can eat a healthy meal while staying active and being with friends. Sites are also registered with the USDA and are held at safe local places like schools, churches and community centers.

Free Summer Meal Program Details:

- Meals are **free to children and teens ages 18 and younger** who come to a summer meals site.
- Free summer meals can help families **save money**.
- Food served is **healthy and follows USDA nutrition guidelines**.
- No application or proof of income needed. You can just bring your child to a summer meals site in your community.

Summer meals are meant to work hand-in-hand with Summer EBT, a new program that provides food benefits for each eligible child during the summer months. Families can use Summer EBT benefits to buy food at grocery stores, farmers markets, and other retailers that accept EBT.

If you or someone you know is interested, call 211 or 1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479). You can also visit SummerMealsNY.org to find a site and learn more.

Sincerely,

Dr. Unal Karakas
Superintendent of Schools