# SNP Memo #2021-2022-28


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: March 4, 2022

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

FROM: Sandra C. Curwood, PhD, RDN, ***Sandy***

## SUBJECT: Reinvesting in School Meals Resource

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide school food authorities (SFAs) with a resource for reinvesting some of the additional funds made available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to enhance operations and school meal quality. The Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SNP) is aware that while many SFAs have struggled financially, others have a surplus of funds. The resources detailed are ideas to consider for utilizing these funds.

Since March 2020, school nutrition professionals across Virginia have worked tirelessly to provide school meals despite school closures, nationwide supply chain issues, worker shortages, and other operational challenges. As these issues persist, the VDOE-SNP remains committed to providing support to SFAs as they continue to ensure all students across the Commonwealth have equitable access to good, healthy food. The VDOE-SNP encourages SFAs to utilize excess funds to recruit and retain staff, increase participation by improving meal quality and appeal, as well as update equipment and technology.

The resource included as Attachment A, provided by No Kid Hungry, includes suggestions and ideas for spending down excess fund balances. Suggestions are related to menu and meal quality, service and atmosphere, staffing, equipment, staff training and professional development, nutrition education, and universal free meals.

For more information or for questions, please contact the school or child nutrition specialist assigned to your region.

SCC/CEJ/rd