# SNP Memo #2020-2021-37


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: December 17, 2020

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

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

## SUBJECT: Inclement Weather and School Meals

The purpose of this memo is to provide clarification on serving school meals on inclement weather days during remote learning. As winter weather approaches, the Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SNP) has received numerous inquiries regarding this matter. The following information was initially discussed during a webinar hosted by the VDOE-SNP on Thursday, December 10, 2020, and the webinar recording and slides were distributed via email and posted in the *Download Forms* section of SNPWeb.

Superintendent’s memo [#272-20](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2020/index.shtml), issued on October 9, 2020, outlines criteria for determining whether remote learning on inclement weather days can count towards the school division’s instructional school days. This memo emphasized that school divisions must consider how they will maintain school meal services for eligible students prior to offering remote instruction on an inclement weather day. Divisions must consider their current service delivery model (i.e., National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), or Seamless Summer Option (SSO)) and relevant conditions.

The VDOE-SNP requires school divisions to provide meals to students on all instructional days, regardless of the meal program in operation. If it is not feasible for meals to be delivered due to inclement weather, this does not mean the instructional day cannot be counted. School meals do not determine if remote learning on inclement weather days constitute instructional school days. Instructional school days are determined by the school division, in compliance with VDOE statutory and regulatory requirements.

In the VDOE-SNP webinar on Thursday, December 10, 2020, a number of ideas for providing meals under inclement weather circumstances were discussed. Some best practices include partnering with community sponsors, sending meals home with students in advance of the snow day, or working with local emergency services such as fire, police, bus service, hospitals, etc. to assist with meal distribution.

If you have any questions, please contact your assigned SNP regional specialist.

SCC/AMN/cc