# Superintendent’s Memo #009-21

  
**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: January 22, 2021

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: At-Risk Afterschool Meals Component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program: An Excellent Resource for Addressing Child Food Insecurity in Virginia**

The At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federal child nutrition program administered by the Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SNP) and funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The At-Risk CACFP program offers federal funding to afterschool programs that serve a nutritious meal or snack to children in low-income areas and requires the provision of an enrichment activity.

School divisions, units of local, state or federal government, and nonprofit organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as 501(c)3 entities are eligible to participate as a sponsor or a site in the At-Risk CACFP program, if the program is located in the attendance zone of a school with 50 percent or more of its enrollment eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Meals and snacks may be served to children 18 and under, and the meals and snacks are reimbursed at the maximum reimbursement rate. Programs participating in the At-Risk CACFP program must operate in a structured, supervised setting and offer academic or enrichment activities to participants, such as homework assistance, nutrition education, or sports. Although meeting the academic or enrichment requirement is challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic, program administrators have been innovative in meeting the needs of their students while also addressing access to healthy meals and snacks in the evenings and on weekends, school breaks, and holidays. The USDA has offered resources to meet this requirement. Sponsors interested in participating in the At-Risk CACFP program should work collaboratively with school administrators and community partners to identify opportunities for academic or enrichment activities.

To learn more about participating in the At-Risk CACFP program, interested organizations may visit the [VDOE-SNP website](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/nutrition/programs/index.shtml) and should contact Maggie Parker, Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) Manager, via email at [maggie.parker@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:maggie.parker@doe.virginia.gov) with questions.

JFL/SCC/MVP/cc