

## ***Talking points for Effects of the Federal Government Shutdown on School Meals:***

1. As always, ***our primary job in (Name of your department) is to make sure that our students are well-fed, so they can learn well in school and live healthy lives.***
2. The current Federal Government shutdown affects the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which provides substantial funding and support for our school meals programs. ***USDA has announced that this funding will continue at least into March, even if the shutdown is not resolved.***
3. In the short term, one of our priorities is to make sure that ***any families affected by federal furloughs caused by the shutdown know that they are eligible to apply for free and reduced-price meals at our schools.*** They can contact us at \_\_\_\_\_ for more information.
4. ***We're hopeful that the shutdown will be resolved soon*** or other accommodations will be made and ***all federal funding of our meals will continue as usual, without interruption.***
5. ***However, if the shutdown persists, our students will continue to be fed at school.*** We will draw on our fund balance and other district resources to make sure our students always get the nutrition they need during the school day to learn well.
6. Every day, we serve XXXXXX meals to our district's XXXXXX students. We're used to dealing with the uncertainty that running any food service operation of this size entails. This is an unusual kind of uncertainty, but ***we're determined that this situation will not disrupt our paramount commitment – to make sure our students are well-fed so they can meet the challenges of their school day.***