The Echols County School System will be offering NO COST breakfast and lunch to all students for the 2022-2023 school year through the Seamless Summer Option for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. Households are not required to complete meal applications to qualify for meals at no cost.

Maintaining the viability of this program to offer free meals to all students will continue to rest on increasing the number of students eating meals at schools. Parents are asked to please encourage your students to participate in the breakfast and lunch program. Research has shown that eating breakfast and lunch affects students’ concentration and attentiveness and reduces discipline problems.

In addition to the personal benefits to students, participation numbers will be the key indicator for determining the fiscal viability of the program. The amount of funds reimbursed by the USDA is dependent on the number of meals served.

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**Nondiscrimination Statement**: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\_filing\_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.