



**K. ERIK SWANSON, PhD**  
Superintendent of Education

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **GDOE Food and Nutrition Division Serving Public School Students**

**Tiyan, Guam** – The Guam Department of Education’s (GDOE) Food and Nutrition Division has achieved a significant milestone in the 2023-2024 school year, providing a staggering 1,981,607 lunches and 1,138,583 breakfasts to students. This accomplishment reflects the division's commitment to ensuring that the nutritional needs of the island's youth are met, supporting their educational journey. The provision of these meals is crucial, as it not only fuels the physical growth of the students but also enhances their cognitive functions, which are essential for learning. The GDOE's efforts exemplify the importance of integrating comprehensive nutritional programs within educational systems to foster a healthy and conducive learning environment.

GDOE’s Food & Nutrition Division initiative to provide nutritious breakfasts and lunches at no cost to students is a commendable effort towards improving child health and well-being. With over 24,000 students benefiting from this program, it is a significant step in ensuring that the youth, who are the future of the community, receive the necessary nutrients to aid their growth and development. Such programs are essential, especially considering that for many students, these meals constitute their primary source of nutrition. By addressing food insecurity and promoting healthy eating habits, the department is not only supporting academic performance but also fostering a healthier next generation.

Superintendent Dr. Erik Swanson said, *“Nutritious and well-balanced meals contribute to student success in and out of the classroom. All our students have access to these meals at no cost through our Community Eligibility Program.”*

The GDOE’s Food and Nutrition Division is dedicated to ensuring that students receive nutritious meals during the summer months. This commitment extends to various summer programs, including Project U, the Guam Trades Academy, and the Extended School Year (ESY). Through initiatives like the National School Lunch Program and the Summer Food Service Program, they offer healthy and balanced, at no-cost lunches to children, contributing to their health and academic success. The programs are designed to be inclusive, providing meals to all students engaged in educational activities over the summer, ensuring that no child goes hungry during this critical time of continued learning and growth.

All GDOE students will continue to have access to school meals in the upcoming school year 2024-2025 at no cost. No applications are necessary through our Community Eligibility Provision, which takes away the administrative burden on the schools and parents.

For more information, you may contact the GDOE’s Food and Nutrition Division at (671) 300-1398, via email at [fnsm-d-lea@gdoe.net](mailto:fnsm-d-lea@gdoe.net) or [mtreyes@gdoe.net](mailto:mtreyes@gdoe.net).

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