

# A Teacher's Guide to Ensuring Students' Health, Safety, and Support this Summer

This guide is intended to help you locate and compile resources in your community that provide food, child care, and enrichment opportunities for students over the summer months. In the sections below, we provide national resources that may be available in your area, as well as suggestions for finding local resources. As you find sources, compile the information at the bottom of the page and use what you've compiled to share with your students and their parents. When planning to send this resource out to parents and families, be sure to reflect on how your communications can be [accessible and culturally responsive](#) for all parents.

## Food Resources

During the school year, ["22 million children receive free or reduced-priced meals through the National School Lunch Program."](#) (Feeding America) Over the summer, many of these students are still in need of food assistance but are unaware of where to get it.

### • Nationwide Resources

- [No Kid Hungry](#) - All across the country, schools and community groups run summer meals sites where kids can eat breakfast and lunch for free. No Kid Hungry helps local organizations launch and operate these sites, and they also help fund needed equipment like [mobile meals trucks](#). No Kid Hungry runs [a summer meals texting service](#). You can text **'FOOD'** to **877-877** to find free summer meals sites in their neighborhoods.
- [Feeding America](#) - The Feeding America nationwide network of food banks operates several summer food service programs during the summer that seek to serve students who need food service. These programs help meet the needs of low-income children and their families who face hunger in the summer by providing them with nutritious meals and snacks when school is not in session. You can find a local partner [HERE](#).
- [USDA Food and Nutrition Service - Summer Food Service Program](#) - The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally-funded, state-administered program. SFSP reimburses program operators who serve free healthy meals and snacks to children and teens in low-income areas. You can find the program fact sheet [HERE](#) or look for a site near you [HERE](#).

- **Local Suggestions**

- **[United Way](#)** - Connecting with your local United Way can be an excellent way to learn about programs you may be unaware of in your community. They may have insight into food service programs your students and their families could utilize.
- **Local Religious Organizations** - Many religious organizations host a free weekly meal. Reach out to several in your area and ask if this is a service they provide. Compile a list of the organizations and the day of the week they serve.

## Child Care Resources

Students spend a majority of their day at school and many are transported to school by the school bus. When summer comes, many parents must figure out where to send their child during the day and how to afford it. Some studies suggest that Americans spend nearly [20-30% of income on childcare](#). For low-income families, this can be daunting.

- **National Resources**

- **[The Salvation Army](#)** - The Salvation Army hosts summer camps throughout the United States for children of low-income households. You can search for camps near you [HERE](#).
- **[Care.com Nanny Camp](#)** - Many parents rely on the school bus to transport their child every day. Without it, some parents struggle to transport their children to and from a summer care facility. Creating what is termed a “nanny camp” allows for multiple parents from the same neighborhood to hire a nanny together. Sharing a nanny that comes to a particular neighborhood home, or rotates homes in the neighborhood, eliminates the need for transportation and keeps costs down. You can learn more at the link above.

- **Local Suggestions**

- **Your District** - Districts that offer before and after school services sometimes offer summer child care services as well. The district may be able to provide scholarships or discounted rates for families in need. Check with your district to find out what their offerings are. [HERE](#) is an example from a district in Ohio.
- **Local YMCA** - Most YMCA locations offer summer camps to both members and non-members. While they can be pricey, some also offer scholarships to families in need to cover the cost. [HERE](#) is an example

from a YMCA in Washington. You can check your local YMCA to see if assistance is available for your students.

- **Local Parks & Recreation Departments** - Many parks & recreation departments across the country offer summer camp services at affordable rates. Check yours to see what may be available. [HERE](#) is an example of one in Ohio.

## Safety & Enrichment

Safety & enrichment tend to be more difficult to navigate as they are not as tangible. When it comes to safety, ensure parents are knowledgeable about leaving children home alone, or have resources in case of emergency or toxic living environment.

### • Safety

- [Leaving Children Home Alone](#) - A safety guide for parents of children old enough to stay by themselves.
- **Your Local Police Station Number** - While 9-1-1 is universal for emergencies, provide parents with the non-emergency number as well for your specific area.
- [Domestic Violence Hotline](#) - 1-800-799-7233
- **Child Protective Services** - find the phone number for your state [HERE](#).

### • Enrichment

- **Fun Summer Work** - Sending students home with resources to keep their mind engaged may be a great way to help them retain information and receive enrichment over break. Worksheets related to class content and word puzzles can be simple to print off and send home with them for summer.
- **Books**- Many local bookstores, used bookstores, and libraries donate books. Prior to the end of the year, reach out to these organizations and see if you can't get between 20-60 age appropriate books donated to send home with your students for the summer.



# Resources Tracker Example

Student Summer Resources		
Food Resources	Child Care Resources	Safety & Enrichment
No Kid Hungry Summer Meal Site - Daniel Wright Elementary School, 7030 Coffman Road, Dublin, OH 43016. (614-760-4318). Open June 3 - Aug 8 (M, T, F)	Westerville Community Center Summer Camp - (Monday, June 3 - Friday, Aug. 2) \$145 a week - 9 a.m - 4 p.m. (extra hours if necessary)	Local Police Station Number - <u>(614) 882-7444</u>



# Health, Safety, and Enrichment Resources for Your Student's Summer Success

Student Summer Resources		
Food Resources	Child Care Resources	Safety & Enrichment

