



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Camden City School District Launches Summer Program and Free Meals Kickoff with Mayor Carstarphen, Anti-Hunger Advocates, and Former NFL Eagles' Wide Receiver Jason Avant**

**Camden, NJ** - Camden City School District is excited to announce the kickoff event for its summer program and free meals initiative. The event will take place on Wednesday, July 5, 2023 at 10am at Camden High Campus, located at 1700 Park Blvd. The Camden School District has implemented a robust summer program that will include credit-recovery, academic programming and local field trips. These programs will also aid the district in slowing down learning loss that traditionally happens during a summer break. The district has partnered with esteemed stakeholders and Former NFL Eagles player, Jason Avant, to promote the program and highlight the importance of providing free meals to all students in the city.

Anti-hunger advocates gather in Camden to kick off the City's FREE Summer Meals program and encourage students to stay active and eat healthy during the summer. By offering free meals to all students in the city, the Camden City School District aims to address food insecurity and promote the overall well-being of its students.

**Who:** Dana Walker, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Camden City School District  
Arlethia Brown, Senior Director of School Nutrition, Camden City School District  
Roberta Hodsdon, Special Nutrition Program Director, Mid- Atlantic Regional Office, United States Department of Agriculture  
Casi Long, NJ Dairy Farmer & Calf  
Jason Avant, Former Eagles' Wide Receiver  
100+ City students

**When:** Wednesday, July 5, 2023  
Event time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
**Speakers Remarks: 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**  
Music and interactive activities: 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Jason Avant distributes lunch to children: Noon

**Where:** Camden High School, 1700 Park Blvd., Camden, NJ 08103  
Rain location: School Gymnasium

**Why:** When school lets out for summer, millions of children lose access to school breakfast and lunch and are at risk of going hungry. In New Jersey, one in ten children face hunger according to Feeding America. Of the 20 million students nationwide who are eligible for





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free and reduced-price lunches during the school year, less than 5 million participated in the Summer Food Service Program last year, leaving more than 15 million children unserved.

Hunger doesn't take a break in the summer and families can spend additional money to feed children when school is out. Families can spend up to an additional \$300 a month to feed children when school is out. Spreading the word and making families aware of the availability of free Summer Meals is vitally important to the health of children and helps stretch the food budget.

Summer Meals are free to children 18 years and under and include nutritious foods like milk, fruit, vegetables and more. There is no registration and no paperwork required.

**To find Summer Meals programs in your community:**

Text "Summer Meals" to 914-342-7744

Visit: [https://camdencityschools.org/?page\\_id=192952](https://camdencityschools.org/?page_id=192952)

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