



PRAIRIE GROVE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 46

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May 3, 2020

Dear District 46 families,

We understand the COVID-19 pandemic has been stressful for families in numerous ways and it is our goal to support our families as best we can during this period. Unemployment grows across the nation and the impact locally has been felt by our most vulnerable citizens (children and elderly). If you or a family member needs help, we encourage you to reach out to our school social workers and/or visit this list of [community resources](#). This list was compiled by the school district and includes many local organizations that provide mental health counseling, food, and financial assistance. It may not be an all encompassing list.

District 46 remains committed to serving its students and families during remote learning. We will continue to provide lunches for families in need for all children under the age of 18. If you would like to be added to the food distribution program, please contact Joan McAvoy (jmcavoy@dist46.org). Lunches for the entire week will be available on Monday (5/04) from 11am-1pm. For everyone's health and safety, food will be distributed as a "drive-up" service. Parents/guardians will be asked to drive up to the school's main entrance and open their trunks so bags can be placed there rather than inside the vehicle.

The greater Prairie Grove community continues to be a special place to live, raise a family, and work. Several community members have reached out to us and provided additional food supplies to assist families that have been greatly impacted by COVID-19. If you, or someone you know, is seeking a way to help others, please encourage them to review the community resources page (linked above). The needs are great across all of McHenry County.

In addition to the McHenry County community resource groups, District 46 will continue to distribute food items that have been donated to us. If you would prefer to help in this manner, items may be dropped off at PG Elementary on Mondays between 8am-9am. Here is a sample list of food items that are in the highest need:

- Canned goods: soups, vegetables, fruits, tuna and chicken
- Snack items for the kiddos
- Breakfast items: cereal, granola bars, and oatmeal
- Peanut butter and jelly

Other Statewide Assistance

Beginning on May 1, Illinois families with school-age children can apply for extra money for food through the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT). Families currently receiving SNAP do not need to apply for P-EBT benefits, because these additional P-EBT benefits will be automatically loaded into Illinois LINK EBT accounts. Families who do not currently receive SNAP benefits but have children who receive free or

reduced-priced meals will need to apply directly with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). IDHS [created a flyer](#) to help families with the application process.

The application is available in both English and Spanish at <https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access>. The fastest way for families to receive benefits is to complete the [application for P-EBT available online](#). (Click “Apply for Benefits” at the link.) However, for areas where technology access may still pose a challenge, a PDF of the application can be printed out in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) and distributed to families. Families can use their mobile devices to scan or photograph their completed applications and email them to DHS.FCS.PEBT@illinois.gov or send them via regular mail to Central Scan Unit, PO Box 19138, Springfield, IL, 62763. Alternatively, schools can collect the completed paper applications and submit them (as a group) directly to IDHS for processing. If families need technical assistance with the application process, please email IDHS at DHS.FCS.PEBT@illinois.gov.

All the best,



Dr. John M. Bute
Superintendent