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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 28, 2021 Release #2021/22 – 005 <u>Contact:</u> Jennifer C. Jones, Director of Community & School Affairs, (478) 988-6390, <u>Jennifer.C.Jones@hcbe.net</u>

Houston County to Continue Free Breakfast and Lunch for all Students This School Year

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Houston County Schools will continue to offer all students free breakfast and lunch during the 2021-2022 school year. The Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition Program recently announced that Georgia schools may participate in the Seamless Summer Option for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs in School Year 2021-2022.

During March of 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the USDA provided waivers to school nutrition programs to ensure children continued to receive safe, healthy, and nutritious food. Due to the recent announcement by USDA and The Georgia Department of Education, meals can continue to be served at no cost to students.

Meredith Potter, Director of Houston County School Nutrition, says, "We are excited to continue to serve meals at no cost to all of our students, whether they are learning in the classroom or virtually. Our goal is to ensure our students are fed and ready to learn."

Free breakfasts and lunches will be provided for all students who attend school on campus, as well as students enrolled in Houston Virtual. Houston Virtual parents/guardians may pick up meal packs at any of the district's high schools on Wednesdays between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m. Students are not required to be in the vehicle at the time of meal pick up, but parents should write the name of the Houston Virtual student and their lunch number on a 8x11 piece of paper and place it on the passenger dash board of the vehicle. At this time, meal packs will only be prepared for Houston Virtual students.

For additional information and a list of Q&As, visit <u>www.hcbe.net/schoolnutrition</u>.

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P.O. Box 1850 • Perry, Georgia 31069 (478) 988-6200 • Fax (478) 988-6259 WWW.HCBE.NET