



June 18, 2020

AccelerateED Task Force
VIA Accelerate@ed.sc.gov
RE: AccelerateED Task Force Guidance and Recommendations

Dear Task Force Members,

Eat Smart Move More South Carolina (ESMMSC) is working with partners in various settings throughout South Carolina to ensure equitable access to healthy food and physical activity, including schools.

We understand that AccelerateED's top priority to responding to the pandemic is protecting the health and safety of students, staff, and families. Good nutrition and physical activity can help students feel better, perform better, and reduce anxiety, as well as reduce risks of contracting communicable diseases. With this in mind, ESMMSC would like to recommend:

- Prioritizing equity; recognize that some school districts may not have the same resources as others; and using unemployment, poverty and food insecurity data to direct resources in an equitable manner.
- Consideration of physical education as a core component to the educational experience and provide students physical education regardless of using a traditional, hybrid, or e-learning model; and incorporating physical activity throughout the day for staff and students.
- Maintaining healthy standards for meals and snacks served as outlined by the United States Department of Agriculture; and utilizing resources for elevating standards of food served to meet best practices and standards, such as outlined by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

ESMMSC's partnership includes over 3,200 members working with 26 Eat Smart Move More county-based coalitions that represent 37 counties in South Carolina. ESMMSC local coalitions and members are being encouraged to be involved on local taskforces for reopening schools.

Please contact me if you would like additional resources and information regarding healthy eating active living at meg@eatsmartmovemore.org or 803-667-9810. For your reference, the following links provide resources that may be helpful:

Children CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children.html>

SCDHEC: <https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/mental-emotional-health-covid-19>



Who HEAL:

<https://www.who.int/news-room/campaigns/connecting-the-world-to-combat-coronavirus/healthyathome/healthyathome---physical-activity>

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/connecting-the-world-to-combat-coronavirus/healthyathome/healthyathome---healthy-diet>

Kind regards,

Meg Stanley
Executive Director

CC: Governor Henry McMaster