

Anderson District 5 to Distribute Food

Frances Parrish
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Anderson School District 5's food truck has arrived and took its maiden voyage Tuesday morning to four low-income apartment complexes in the city.

"It was so exciting, and the kids were excited," said Andy Faircloth, District 5's food and nutrition services training specialist. She said the children were running to meet the food truck at the different stops. Faircloth and Shannon Junkins, District 5's food and nutrition operations field supervisor, drove the truck Tuesday for its first route delivering food to the children.

For breakfast on Tuesday, the children received cereal, milk, juice and apples. For lunch they received sweet and sour chicken, rice, oranges, green peas and milk.

"They were begging us to come back to feed them supper tonight," Junkins said. "We played music from the truck and the kids danced and had a fun time."

"They couldn't say thank you enough," Faircloth said.

During the summer, the budget is \$2.50 per meal, which includes the cost of preparing the food. Initially, Amy Heard, District 5's executive director of finance, said they plan to deliver 2,000 lunches, 1,385 breakfasts and 485 snacks, every day. The food truck will deliver the meals Monday through Friday throughout the summer. Contracted employees from the cafeterias will spend their days working on an hourly salary to feed the children during the summer. Food routes will begin at 7:15 a.m. and continue throughout the day until lunch has been served.

Sharon Hunt, director of food and nutrition services in District 5, said that the equipment had to be approved by the state Department of Health and Environmental Control before the truck could be put to use. With DHEC approved required equipment, the food truck cost \$50,000. It is outfitted with a refrigerator, a hot cooler to keep food warm, two sinks and counter space for serving food.

In addition to the food truck, there will be three other vans distributing food to sites around the city of Anderson. Heard said that the district will continue to expand the number of sites they visit throughout the summer.

"As long as we can continue to meet the needs, we will continue to grow the program," Heard said. "We are excited about this program and we know it will be beneficial."

District 5 applied for a federal grant in order to help their students over the summer.

While this may be the first year the district is feeding children from a vehicle, this is not the first time children have been fed for the summer.

For the last few years, Glenview Middle School and Robert Anderson College and Career Academy have served as open sites where anyone 18 and younger can get a free lunch or breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The district will continue this service while implementing the food truck service.

BEFORE



AFTER

