

Child Nutrition Programs

Administered by the Colorado Department of Education Office of School Nutrition

National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

The National School Lunch Program, established in 1946, is the oldest and largest of the Child Nutrition Programs. It is a federally assisted meal program that provides nutritious, low-cost or free lunches to students each day. Specific meal patterns and nutrition standards are required in the National School Lunch Program and are based on the latest *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.

School Breakfast Program (SBP)

The School Breakfast Program (SBP) provides a nutritious morning meal. This program is recognized as one of the most beneficial of the federal nutrition programs. SBP meets a vital need of feeding thousands of students each day, who might otherwise not eat a nutritious breakfast. Participation in the program has been shown to improve learning and test performance. Specific meal patterns and nutrition standards are required in the SBP, and schools that participate in the SBP receive funding assistance similar to the National School Lunch Program.

Afterschool Snack Program (ASP)

The intent of the Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) is to assist schools that operate organized programs of care, which include education and enrichment activities known to help reduce or prevent children's involvement in juvenile crime or other high risk behavior, by providing snacks. Eligible programs serving snacks to children that meet USDA requirements may be claimed for reimbursement.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides nutritious meals to children 18 years and younger during the summer or other continuous school calendar vacation programs. Free meals are provided to all children at approved SFSP sites in areas with significant concentrations of low-income children. SFSP sponsoring organizations are operated by public and private nonprofit school food authorities, public or private, nonprofit residential and nonresidential camps, local, municipal, county or state governments, public or private colleges or universities participating in the National Youth Sports Program and private, nonprofit organizations.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) provides children in participating schools with a variety of free fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the school day. The program is an effective and creative way of introducing fresh fruits and vegetables as healthful snack options, and is seen as an important catalyst for change in efforts to combat childhood obesity by helping children learn more healthful eating habits. The FFVP introduces school children to a variety of produce that they otherwise might not have had the opportunity to sample. The FFVP also encourages schools to develop partnerships at the state and local level for support in implementing and operating the program.

Child Nutrition Programs (CNP)

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- Emergency Feeding
- Seamless Summer Option (SSO)



Special Milk Program (SMP)

The Special Milk Program (SMP) offers milk to children who do not have access to other federal child nutrition programs. This includes preschool and kindergarten children attending split-session schools or children attending summer or year-round camps. Participating schools and institutions receive financial assistance for each half-pint of milk served.

Provisional Programs – Provision 2 and Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

The intent of provisional programs is to improve access to free school meals and to eliminate the administrative burden of collecting household applications in eligible high poverty school food authorities and schools. A school participating in Provision 2 or the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) must serve National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) meals to all participating children, at no charge, for up to four consecutive years. In return, these programs offer schools a reduction in some administrative burden associated with distribution of free and reduced price meal applications and the determination of household eligibility and eliminates meal counts by type. Provision 2 federal reimbursement is based on percentages determined during the base year. CEP federal reimbursement is based on percentages of identified students who are directly certified.

Emergency Feeding

School food authorities participating in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Programs and sponsors participating in the Summer Food Service Program can respond to situations resulting from damage or disruptions due to natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, and floods.

Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

The Seamless Summer Option (SSO) allows school food authorities participating in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs to provide free summer meals to children in low income areas during the traditional summer vacation periods and, for year-round schools, during school vacation periods longer than 15 school days (or for breaks of shorter periods of time if approved by the CDE Office of School Nutrition). The SSO is designed to allow SFAs to continue the same meal service rules and claiming procedures used during the regular school year. Site designations for the SSO are similar to those for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the same NSLP and SBP rules apply for meal service. Meals served are reimbursed at the NSLP and/or SBP free rates.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Where can I learn more?

- Office of School Nutrition: www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition
- Colorado Child Nutrition Programs: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/nutriprograms>