School Meal Programs in School Year 2022-23

For details on all flexibilities, visit USDA Waivers and Guidance on CDE website.
Visit the back-to-school guidance webpage for details on how to request a waiver

COLORADO
Department of Education

	Usual Program Operations	School Year 2022-23 Flexibilities & Requirements
Allowable Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Afterschool snacks May not provide weekend or holiday meal	Same
Area Eligibility	Meals may be provided only to children enrolled in the district	Same
Reimbursement Rates	NSLP/SBP reimbursement rates	Same
Meal Claiming	Claim meals by student eligibility (free/reduced-price/paid) Communicate unpaid meal charge policy to families	Same
Free & Reduced Price Meal Applications	• Must collect and process applications as part of normal operations • Must follow disclosure requirements, complete verification and direct certification • May use a student's eligibility status from the prior school year for the first 30 days of the new school year (i.e., carryover)	Same, **except:** Sponsors that operated the Seamless Summer Option in SY 2021-22 and do not have eligibility information for a student on file, may use the most recent years' eligibility for student's carryover status back to SY 2019-20 No waiver required
Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool	If sponsor has a negative balance, must complete PLE tool and increase the price of paid lunches based on tool outcome, if applicable	For SY 2022-23, sponsors are not required to increase their paid lunch prices No waiver required
Meal Pattern	NSLP/SBP meal patterns Offer vs. serve is required for lunch at the high school level Sponsors must plan all menus to meet the grade group requirements for the grade groups served at each site Pre-K students must follow the pre-K meal pattern when eating meals separately from older students	Same, **except:** When impacted by Covid-19 offer vs. serve is not required for lunch at the high school level A waiver is required and must be approved by CDE

Meal Service Times	Meals must be served during a specific time frame, duration of time, and ensure no overlap of meal service	Same, **except:** When impacted by Covid-19 varied meal service times are allowed A waiver is required and must be approved by CDE
Meal Service Location	Meals must be served to students enrolled in the district and consumed on site. To increase student access to meals, meals may be served in the cafeteria, classroom or elsewhere on the school campus.	Same, **except:** When impacted by Covid-19 and approved by CDE, non-congregate feeding and parent pickup are allowed A waiver is required and must be approved by CDE
Applications	Apply to operate school nutrition programs through the Child Nutrition Portal Sponsors will apply in the 2022-23 school year and submit SNP site applications	Same
Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program	May apply and serve if awarded. To apply, a site must be an elementary school and operations begin at the start of the school year.	Same, **except:** When impacted by Covid-19 and approved by CDE, alternate sites and parent pick up are allowed A waiver is required and must be approved by CDE
Afterschool Snack Program	May apply and serve; the site must meet eligibility requirement of 50% or more based on previous school year October count	Same, **except:** If the site does not meet eligibility requirements based on SY 2021-22, the site may use alternative options to determine site eligibility: • Option 1: Use SY 2019-20 October count data • Option 2: Use SY 2021-22 Community Eligibility Provision data No waiver required
On-Site Monitoring	The on-site monitoring form must be completed by February 1st of each school year for each site and must take place on-site	Same, **except:** Sponsors may complete the on-site monitoring form via a desk audit No waiver required
Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment	The local wellness policy triennial assessment is due June 30, 2022	Sponsors may complete the triennial assessment by June 30, 2023 No waiver required

Food Service Management Companies (FSMC)	Sponsors may contract with a FSMC for no longer than one year, with options for a yearly renewal not to exceed four additional years.	Sponsors up for a FSMC renewal may extend existing contracts through SY 2022-23 No waiver required

This institution is an equal opportunity provider