

Comparison of Summer Meal Programs

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO), National School Lunch (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP) & Afterschool Snack

Topic	SFSP Operation	SSO Summer Operation	NSLP/SBP/Afterschool Snack
Eligible Participants	<p>Persons 18 years or younger and persons 19 or older with a physical or mental disability, as defined by the State, who are also enrolled in a public or private school program.</p> <p>Meals are served free of charge to eligible participants, as defined above.</p>	Same as SFSP	<p>Students enrolled in summer school.</p> <p>Meal cost for children is based on their income eligibility (free, reduced, and paid).</p> <p>Afterschool snacks may be provided to students participating in an enrichment activity after summer school.</p>
Meal Service Locations	Schools, Camps, Churches, Community Centers, Housing Projects, Libraries, Migrant Centers, Parks, Playgrounds, Pools, and Other public sites where children gather	Same as SFSP	School locations that participate in the NSLP and/or SBP during the regular school year.
Site Eligibility	<p>Open and restricted open sites must be located within the attendance area of a school that has 50% or more of its children eligible for free/reduced price meals OR within a census tract that qualifies.</p> <p>Closed enrolled sites may be located within an eligible area as described above OR if outside of an eligible area, must verify that at least 50% of children enrolled are eligible for free/reduced price school meals.</p> <p>Camps must offer a regularly scheduled food service as part of an organized program for enrolled children. Meals are served free to all enrolled children; however, reimbursement is determined based on income eligibility of each enrolled camper.</p> <p>Migrant sites must provide certification by a migrant organization that the site serves children of migrant farm workers.</p>	Same as SFSP	<p>Public and private non-profit schools that participate in the NSLP and/or SBP during the regular school year can participate during summer school without any additional eligibility requirements. Schools must provide meals to only the children enrolled in summer school.</p> <p>Schools that have afterschool care programs during the school year and continue these in the summer after summer school can continue to offer snacks through the Afterschool Snacks Program. To qualify for area eligibility in the Afterschool Snack Program, sites must have 50% or more of the children in the attendance area of a school qualify for free and reduced price school meals, based on school data.</p>

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Meal Pattern	SFAs may choose to follow SFSP meal pattern OR the NSLP and SBP meal pattern.	Meal pattern must meet standards for NSLP and SBP.	Meal pattern must meet standards for NSLP and SBP.
Meal Types	Breakfast, Lunch, Supper, AM & PM Snack May serve up to 2 meal services per day, at each site, in any combination other than lunch and supper on the same day.	Same as SFSP	Any combination of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Lunch • Snack (Afterschool only)
Reimbursement Rates	Meals are reimbursed at the SFSP Reimbursement Rate .	Meals are reimbursed at the current free NSLP and SBP rates.	Meals are paid at the appropriate rate for the determined eligibility of the child served (free, reduced or paid). Schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) provide meals at no charge to students and claim according to the approved CEP claiming percentage.
USDA Foods	May utilize USDA Foods received during the school year AND may order a separate shipment for the summer, delivered in June.	May utilize USDA Foods received during the school year.	May utilize USDA Foods received during the school year.
Site Monitoring	<p>New and returning sites that had facility issues the previous year, require a pre-operational visit before the site operates.</p> <p>New and returning sites that had operational problems the previous year, require a visit during the first two weeks of operation.</p> <p>All sites are to be reviewed during first 4 weeks of operation, followed by additional monitoring as needed.</p> <p>If all of the requirements of the full review are met during the visit that occurs during the first 2 weeks of operation, that visit may count as the review.</p>	Each site must be monitored once, annually.	<p>Onsite monitoring is required for all School Food Authorities (SFAs) with more than one participating site.</p> <p>Lunch monitoring must be completed annually by February 1.</p> <p>Breakfast monitoring must be completed at 50% of breakfast sites annually.</p> <p>Afterschool Snack site monitoring is required twice a year.</p> <p>No additional monitoring required during the summer.</p>

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Public Notification	<p>DPI will issue the media release on behalf of all sponsors starting in 2023.</p> <p>Sponsors that have open and restricted open sites should continue to make the community aware of the meal sites, dates of operation and times of meal services.</p> <p>Sponsors of camps and enrolled sites, must notify participants or enrolled children of the availability of free meals.</p>	<p>Although a formal public release is not required, it is highly recommended. Other types of promotion of the availability of meals to children in the community is required.</p>	<p>SFA must distribute the Public Release to the media and other organizations in the community at the start of each school year.</p> <p>No further public notification is required to operate in the summer months.</p>
Application	<p>Complete the SFSP application within FNS Online Services.</p>	<p>Apply for summer operation using the SSO application provided by the School Nutrition Team AND extend the SFA's School Nutrition contract to include summer dates of operation by the spring deadline, provided annually.</p>	<p>SFAs must extend their School Nutrition contract to include summer school dates of operation by the spring deadline, provided annually.</p>