



CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

This resource describes the different Child Nutrition Programs administered by the Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Services Division.

The Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Services

Mission Statement

The Health and Nutrition Services Division is committed to enhancing the health and well-being of Arizona's children and adults by providing access to a variety of federally funded programs.

Health and Nutrition Services Vision

Ensure that our customers receive the maximum benefit from our programs.

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Overview of Child Nutrition Programs

National School Lunch Program

The primary purpose of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is to serve school children meals of optimum nutritional value at a minimum cost to the child. This is accomplished by providing a daily meal that meets meal pattern requirements set forth by the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) that take part in the NSLP can receive cash reimbursement and donated foods from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Meals are reimbursed according to the income eligibility of the students participating in the program. Public schools, private non-profit schools, residential childcare institutions (RCCI), juvenile correctional institutions, and boarding schools may participate in the NSLP.

For more information about the NSLP, please visit the following webpages:

- [Health and Nutrition Services NSLP Webpage](#)
- [USDA's NSLP Webpage](#)



Overview of Child Nutrition Programs

School Breakfast Program

Breakfasts served at school that meet meal pattern requirements set forth by the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 can be provided for all children in schools and residential childcare institutions participating in the program. Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch are also eligible for free or reduced-price breakfast. Meals are reimbursed according to the income eligibility of the students participating in the program. Schools participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) must inform families of the availability of reimbursable breakfast served under the SBP just prior to or at the beginning of the school year as well as provide reminders multiple times throughout the school year.

For more information about the SBP, please visit the following webpages:

- [Health and Nutrition Services NSLP and SBP Webpage](#)
- [USDA's SBP Webpage](#)



Afterschool Care Snack Program

Participation in the NSLP is required for participation in the Afterschool Care Snack Program (ASCSP). A school must provide children with regularly scheduled activities in an organized, structured, and supervised environment. The ASCSP must occur after the school day and must include educational or enrichment activities (e.g., mentoring or tutoring programs) that are open to all students. Organized interscholastic programs or community-level competitive sports are not eligible to participate in the ASCSP. The ASCSP must meet State or local licensing requirements, if available, or State or local health and safety standards. All LEAs that meet the eligibility requirements and participate in the NSLP can receive USDA reimbursement for afterschool snacks.

For more information about the ASCSP, please visit [Health and Nutrition Services ASCSP Webpage](#).

Special Milk Program

The Special Milk Program (SMP) is a program under which participating schools operating a non-profit milk program receive cash assistance for each half-pint of milk served in accordance with 7 CFR Part 215. The SMP is designed to encourage the consumption of milk by children. This program makes milk available to children in non-profit schools, non-profit preschools, childcare centers, settlement houses, summer camps, and split session kindergarten programs conducted in schools that do not provide access to the regular meal service for these children. Operators participating in the SMP cannot participate in any other Child Nutrition Programs for the same student population. Those who participate in the SMP are required to maintain the same documentation that is required for free and reduced-price meals.

For more information, please visit [USDA's Special Milk Program Webpage](#).



Overview of Child Nutrition Programs

Child and Adult Care Food Program

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federal program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating child care centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers. CACFP also provides reimbursements for meals served to children and youth participating in afterschool care programs, children residing in emergency shelters, and adults over the age of 60 or living with a disability and enrolled in day care facilities. The Program is intended to provide aid to child and adult participants and family or group day care homes for provision of nutritious foods that contribute to the wellness, healthy growth, and development of young children, and the health and wellness of older adults and chronically impaired persons.

For more information about the CACFP, please visit the following webpages:

- [Health and Nutrition Services CACFP Webpage](#)
- [USDA's CACFP Webpage](#)



USDA Foods in Schools Program

The USDA Foods in Schools program supports domestic nutrition programs and American agricultural producers through purchases of 100% American-grown and produced foods for use by schools and institutions participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) (receives cash in lieu of USDA Foods), and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Annually, schools are provided entitlement dollars that will be used by USDA to purchase this food. The amount of entitlement provided to each school depends on the number of lunches claimed for reimbursement in the previous year. USDA Foods are available to child nutrition programs through: direct delivery, USDA Foods processing, and the USDA Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

Contact USDAFoods@azed.gov.



Overview of Child Nutrition Programs

Summer Food Service Program



The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a USDA Summer Nutrition Program that was established to ensure that children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. Free meals that meet Federal nutrition guidelines are provided to all eligible children at approved SFSP meal sites. This program continues the availability of lunch as well as breakfast and/or snacks for children when school is not in session. Participation requires sites to draw attendance from low-income areas. Operators of this program are limited to government agencies, public and private non-profit schools, and private non-profit organizations or camps. For more information, please visit [Health and Nutrition Services Summer Meal Service Webpage](#).

Seamless Summer Option

Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or the School Breakfast Program (SBP) can apply for the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). While the traditional Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) remains available, the SSO provides a more streamlined method (with less paperwork) for feeding children in need within the community. Once approved, School Food Authorities (SFAs) can offer meals at no cost to children aged 18 and under from low-income areas.

The same NSLP and SBP rules apply for meal service. Meals provided will be reimbursed at the “free” rates of the NSLP and/or SBP.



SUN Bucks



SUN Bucks, or the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (Summer-EBT) adds an additional supplement to the summer meals programs by providing grocery-buying benefits to low-income families with school-aged children who lose access to free or reduced-price school meals through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) when schools are closed for the summer. Notably, families can benefit from SUN Bucks alongside other programs like SNAP, WIC, and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)/Seamless Summer Option (SSO).

For families already enrolled in benefits such as SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR, their school-aged children will be automatically registered for SUN Bucks. Additionally, if children attend schools participating in the NSLP/SBP and the household income meets the criteria for free or reduced-price meals, they may also be automatically enrolled in SUN Bucks. Families who are not automatically enrolled can apply for SUN Bucks directly, provided they meet income limits and other eligibility requirements.

For more information, please visit [Health and Nutrition Services SUN Bucks webpage](#).

Overview of Child Nutrition Programs

Resources

For more information about the Child Nutrition Programs administered by the Arizona Department of Education Health and Nutrition Services Division, please review the following resources.

Key Guidance

Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act

PL 111-296

Child Nutrition Act

PL 111-296

National School Lunch Act

PL 113-79

National School Lunch Program

7 CFR 210

7 CFR 245

School Breakfast Program

7 CFR 220

SP 40-2011

Afterschool Care Snack Program

7 CFR 210.10

Special Milk Program

7 CFR 215

USDA Foods Program

7 CFR 247

7 CFR 250

Summer Food Service Program

7 CFR 225

Child and Adult Care Food Program

7 CFR 226

Training/Resources

HNS' Training Libraries

- [NSLP/SBP](#)
- [CACFP](#)
- [Summer Meal Service](#)
- [Afterschool Feeding for School Food Authorities](#)

HNS Webpage

<https://www.azed.gov/hns>

USDA Food and Nutrition Services Website

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp>

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sbp/school-breakfast-program>

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/smp/special-milk-program>

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/usda-fis>

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program>

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp>

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