

School Nutrition Program Requirements

Helpful Resources:

[School Nutrition Program Sponsor Support Assignments](#)

[SNP at-a Glance Annual Calendar](#)

Afterschool Snack Service

The National School Lunch Program Afterschool Snack Service is snack service that provides reimbursement to encourage or assist schools in serving snacks to children after the regular school day. The afterschool snack component of the NSLP helps children fully engage in afterschool programming by filling the hunger gap many children face in the afternoon and early evening. To qualify a School Food Authority (SFA) must participate in the National School Lunch Program, operate or sponsor the afterschool program, and provide scheduled and supervised educational or enrichment activities. Organized interscholastic programs or community-level competitive sports are not eligible to participate. SFAs participating in Afterschool Snack Service must offer the meal components and quantities based on the age/grade group served as outlined in regulations.

Due: Ongoing

Tools: [Afterschool Snack Service at a Glance](#)

[USDA Afterschool Snack Service webpage](#)

[ODE Afterschool Snack Service webpage](#)

[SP 19-2024](#)

[Meal Requirements Under the NSLP and SBP: Questions and Answers](#)

[CFR 210.10](#)

Buy American

SFAs must purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic commodities or products. Non-domestic products may only be purchased in two circumstances: 1) The product is listed on the [Federal Acquisition Regulation: List of Nonavailable Articles List](#) (FAR) or 2) When a competitive bid reveals the cost of the domestic product is significantly higher than the non-domestic product. Items on the FAR do not require an exemption form. SFA's purchasing non-domestic products due to higher cost must have an exemption form on file.

Beginning in school year 2025-2026, there will be a cap on the amount of non-domestic food purchases a school may make when utilizing the Buy American exceptions. USDA will use a phased-in approach to gradually reach the 5 percent cap on non-domestic food purchases. Beginning in SY 25-26, the cap will be 10%, in SY 28-29 the cap will be 8% and in SY 31-32 and beyond the cap will be 5%. Items that appear on the FAR list still count toward the cap.

Due: Ongoing

Tools: [Buy American at a Glance](#)

[NSLP Buy American Documentation](#)

[7 CFR 210.21\(d\)](#)

[Federal Acquisition Regulation: List of Nonavailable Articles List](#)

[Buy American Exceptions Tracking Standard Form Template- NEW](#)

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Civil Rights

SFAs must administer program services and benefits in accordance with all laws, regulations, instructions, policies, and guidance related to nondiscrimination in program delivery. Any staff, including supervisory staff, interacting with program applicants or participants must receive training on Civil Rights. USDA nondiscrimination statement must be included on all material mentioning USDA or any Child Nutrition Program.

Due: Ongoing/training **annually**
Update complaint form and logs **annually**.
Current “And Justice for All” posters are displayed anywhere program benefits are available

Tools: [Civil Rights at a Glance](#)
[Civil Rights Training Presentation](#)
[USDA Civil Rights webpage](#)
[ODE Civil Rights webpage \(Complaint form, log, and additional resources available\)](#)
[FNS Instruction 113-1](#)

Claims for Reimbursement

SFAs must submit meal counts of students participating in school meal programs to claim applicable state and federal reimbursements. Each SFA must review the meal counts under its jurisdiction to ensure the accuracy of the monthly claim for reimbursement. Claim data is entered into CNPweb.

Due: **Monthly**, within **60 days** of the last day of the claim month

Tools: [Meal Counting and Claiming Systems at a Glance](#)
[Child Nutrition Programs Claim Timelines](#)
[CNPweb](#)
[CNPweb Sponsor Claim Instructions](#)
[CNPweb Site Claim Instructions](#)

Direct Certification

SFAs must conduct direct certification and certify categorically eligible children for free meals.

Due: SFAs are required to perform direct certification for SNAP at least three times per year. This requirement applies to schools operating standard counting and claiming as well as schools participating in Provision 2 breakfast or lunch, but not both.

- At the beginning of the school year
- Three months after the beginning of the school year
- Six months after the beginning of the school year

CEP schools and schools participating in Provision 2 for breakfast and lunch are required to conduct direct certification at least once per school year.

School Districts may contact their [System Administrator](#) for access to Direct Certification. Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCI's) should reach out to their [assigned specialist](#) to gain a login for Direct Certification.

Tools: [ODE Direct Certification webpage](#)
[Direct Certification Download Instructions](#)
[Direct Certification Login page](#)

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[Eligibility Manual for School Meals](#)

[Eligibility Tool Kit](#)

[7 CFR 210.9\(b\)\(19\)](#)

Eligibility

SFAs participating in NSLP, SBP or the Special Milk Program (SMP) must determine eligibility annually for free and reduced-price meals. Sponsors eligible for Student Success Act Funds must also determine eligibility using Oregon Expanded Income Guidelines (EIG), which provides household eligibility up to 300% of the federal poverty level.

Due: Ongoing

Tools: [Eligibility Manual for School Meals](#)

[Eligibility Tool Kit](#)

[7 CFR 245](#)

[ODE Eligibility recorded training](#)

[Oregon EIG at a Glance](#)

[Student Success Act webpage](#)

Excess Operating Balance

SFAs must ensure that the nonprofit school food service account complies with all financial management regulations. This includes the requirement that sponsors limit their net cash resources (i.e., year-end balance) to an amount that does not exceed three months' average expenditures for their nonprofit food service program.

Due: Reporting due **annually**

Tools: [ODE Resource Management webpage](#)

[Excess Operating Balance Reporting training](#)

[7 CFR 210.9\(b\)\(2\)](#)

[7 CFR 220.7\(e\)\(1\)\(iv\)](#)

Food Safety Inspections

SFAs must have two food safety inspections conducted at each site that prepares and/or serves meals. If two inspections do not take place, the SFA must be able to show documentation that two were requested. The most recent food safety inspection must be posted in a publicly visible location.

Due: **Twice annually**, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP)-based food safety inspections are conducted by local county health departments.

Tools: [Food Safety Inspections at a Glance](#)

[Sample Letter to Public Health Official](#)

[7 CFR 210.13 and 7 CFR 220.7](#)

[SP 45-2011](#)

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Food Safety Programs

SFAs must have a School Food Safety Program that addresses food safety in all aspects of meal preparation and service and is based on the HACCP principles.

Date: Ongoing

Tools: [Food Safety Program at a Glance](#)
[ODE Food Safety webpage](#)
[Institute of Child Nutrition Food Safety Resources](#)
[SP 37-2013](#)

Meal Accommodations and Modifications

SFAs must make reasonable modifications to meal(s) on a case-by-case basis to accommodate disabilities that restrict a child's diet. See the section below on ***Milk Substitution***.

Due: Ongoing

Tools: [Child Nutrition Program Meal Accommodations and Modifications webpage](#)
[Medical Statement to Request Special Meals and/or Accommodations](#)
[Meal Accommodations Quick Guide for Sponsors and Providers](#)
[Meal Accommodations Decision Tree](#)
[Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act](#)
[SP 40-2017](#)
[SP 26-2017](#)
[SP 59-2016](#)
[SP 07-2025](#)

Meal Charge Policy

SFAs must have a written and clearly communicated meal charge policy.

Due: Ongoing

Tools: [Meal Charge Policy at a Glance](#)
[Oregon HB 3454 "Lunch Shaming Ban" Q & A](#)

Meal Pattern (Breakfast and Lunch)

School Food Authorities operating the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program must follow meal pattern requirements for each age/grade group within all reimbursable meal service lines. USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published final rule titled, [Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#). While this rulemaking is effective July 1, 2024, USDA is gradually phasing in required changes over time. Resources and trainings to support implementation are located on the ODE Meal Pattern and Nutritional Quality webpage.

Due: Ongoing

Tools: [Meal Pattern and Nutritional Quality webpage](#)
[Meal Requirements for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program](#)

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[5 Day Lunch Meal Pattern](#)

[Short and Long Week Lunch Meal Pattern Calculations](#)

[Lunch at a Glance](#)

[5 Day Breakfast Meal Pattern](#)

[Breakfast at a Glance](#)

[Offer Versus Serve Manual](#)

[Offer Versus Serve Lunch Tip Sheet](#)

[Offer Versus Serve Breakfast Tip Sheet](#)

[Offer Versus Serve at a Glance](#)

[USDA Sodium Limits Chart and Timelines- NEW](#)

[Updates to the School Nutrition Standards: Sodium- NEW](#)

[Updates to the School Nutrition Standards: Added Sugar- NEW](#)

[Kosher and Halal Foods in Child Nutrition Programs training- NEW](#)

[Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs training](#)

Menu Planning (Breakfast and Lunch) and Production Records

SFAs must plan, prepare, and document breakfast and/or lunch meals that meet meal pattern requirements.

Due: Ongoing

Tools: [Meal Pattern and Nutritional Quality webpage](#)

[Menu Compliance Worksheets](#)

[USDA Menu Planner for School Meals](#)

[Meal and Serving Bar Production Record Template](#)

[Production Records at a Glance](#)

[Offer Versus Serve and Production Records training](#)

Milk Substitution

SFAs must notify ODE on the sponsor information sheet in CNPweb, if they are offering a milk substitution. See the Milk Substitutions at a Glance document below and the Meal Accommodation and Modifications section of this document.

Due: As needed

Tools: [Milk Substitutions at a Glance](#)

[ODE Meal Accommodations and Modifications webpage](#)

[SP 07-210 Q & As; Milk Substitution for Children with Medical or Special Dietary Needs \(Non-Disability\)](#)

[7 CFR 210.10](#)

On-Site Monitoring

SFAs that operate the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) at more than one site must conduct an on-site lunch review of each site and 50% of breakfast sites. All breakfast sites must be reviewed at a minimum every two years. The purpose of the review is to evaluate counting and claiming procedures. Additionally, SFAs that operate the Afterschool Snack Service must complete monitoring two times a year with the first review conducted within the first four weeks that the site is in operation.

Due: NSLP/SBP- **Annually by February 1**, if applicable a follow up review with 45 days.

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Afterschool Snack Service- Within the first four weeks of operation and one additional time.

Tools: [On-Site Monitoring at a Glance](#)
[SNP On-Site Monitoring Form](#)
[Afterschool Snack Service Monitoring Form](#)

Paid Lunch Equity

SFAs that operate the NSLP must ensure sufficient funds are provided to the nonprofit school food service account for meals served to students not eligible for free or reduced-price meals. There are two ways to meet this requirement: either through the prices charged for “paid” meals or through other non-federal sources provided to the nonprofit school food service account.

Due: Annual calculation and reporting

Tools: [Paid Lunch Equity at a Glance](#)
[ODE Resource Management webpage](#)- Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool, for the current school year
[7 CFR 210.14](#)
[USDA Paid Lunch Equity Tool Walk Through training](#)

Point of Service

Point of service is the point in the food operation where a determination can accurately be made that a reimbursable free, reduced-price, or paid meal or snack has been served to an eligible child. Point of service meal counts must be taken at the end of the food service line after students have had access to all meal components, unless otherwise approved by the state agency. This includes identifying what constitutes a reimbursable meal. SFAs are required to establish a point of service system that yields an accurate meal count by category and prevents overt identification.

Due: Ongoing

Tools: [Meal Counting and Claiming Systems at a Glance](#)
[Archived FNS 270 Meal Counting and Claiming Manual](#)
[Meal Counting and Claiming training](#)

Procurement Practices

SFAs using federal funds must follow procurement guidelines. Procurement is the process of purchasing goods and services, which involves planning, drafting specifications, bid advertisement, and awarding and managing the contract. Effective August 2024, SFAs are required to complete annual procurement training.

Due: Ongoing

Tools: [ODE Procurement webpage](#)
[Procurement Training resources](#)

Professional Standards for School Nutrition Employees

SFAs operating the NSLP must ensure minimal education standards are met when hiring a School Food Service Director and that annual training requirements are met for all school nutrition employees. School Nutrition Program Directors are the individuals responsible for the operation of school nutrition programs for all schools under the local educational agency (LEA) and are designated in CNPweb as the ‘CNP Program Manager.’ This must be an employee of the district or organization.

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Due: Ongoing

Tools: [Professional Standards at a Glance Training Standards](#)
[Professional Standards at a Glance Hiring Standards](#)
[USDA Professional Standards webpage](#)
[Professional Standards Learning Objectives \(USDA\)](#)
[7 CFR 210.30](#)

Records Retention

Child Nutrition Program records must be retained in accordance with 7 CFR 210.15.

Due: Ongoing

Tools: [7 CFR 210.15](#)

Revenue from Nonprogram Foods

SFAs must complete revenue calculations to determine if the revenue from non-program foods generates at least the same proportion of revenue as they contribute to the SFAs food cost. If the proportion of non-program food revenue is less than the proportion of non-program food costs, SFAs must increase the prices of non-program foods or cover the cost with non-federal funds.

Due: Report due **annually** but monitoring is ongoing

Tools: [Revenue from Non-Program Foods at a Glance](#)
[ODE Resource Management webpage](#)
[USDA Non-Program Food Revenue Tool](#)
[ODE Revenue from Nonprogram Foods Calculation Worksheet](#)
[ODE Revenue from Nonprogram Foods Reference Period Tool](#)
[Revenue from Nonprogram Foods training](#)
[7 CFR 210.10.14\(f\)](#)

School Breakfast Program

Schools participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) must inform families of the availability of breakfast. The ODE CNP website has many resources available to help build a successful SBP and outlines different breakfast models including Breakfast After the Bell, Breakfast in the Classroom, and Grab & Go Breakfast. In accordance with the Student Success Act, some schools operating SBP are required to offer Breakfast After the Bell.

Due: Ongoing

Tools: [Breakfast at a Glance](#)
[Breakfast After the Bell at a Glance](#)
[Meal Pattern and Nutritional Quality webpage](#) includes information on:

- Breakfast After the Bell Implementation
- Meal Pattern Requirements
- Menu Planning Requirements
- [Updates to the School Nutrition Standards: USDA Landing Page](#)

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School Breakfast Program and Summer Food Outreach

School Food Authority's (SFA) must inform families of the availability of breakfasts offered under the School Breakfast Program (SBP)

At the beginning of each school year the SFA must notify families of the availability of the SBP. In addition, schools should send reminders regarding the availability of the SBP multiple times throughout the school year.

Schools must conduct outreach and advertise the availability of summer meals. This applies to all SFAs, even if there is not a summer feeding program in the community.

Due: **Annually**, before the end of the school year

Tools: [USDA School Breakfast Program Toolkit](#)
[Summer Meals Outreach at a Glance](#)
[Summer Food Service Program webpage](#)
[7 CFR 210.12](#)

Smart Snacks

All foods and beverages sold on the school campus during the school day must meet standards for fat, saturated fat, trans fat, sugar, and sodium, and have whole grains, low fat dairy, fruits, vegetables, or protein foods as their main ingredient.

Due: Ongoing

Tools: [ODE Smart Snack webpage](#)
[Oregon Smart Snacks at a Glance](#)
[Oregon Smart Snacks Q and A](#)

Verification

SFAs not operating under Community Eligibility Provision, Provision 2 non-base year, or Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCI) without day students, must verify eligibility of children from a sample of household applications approved for free and reduced-price meals.

All SFAs, regardless of whether they completed the application verification process, must submit the [FNS-742](#) report annually.

Due: **Annually**, starting on October 1 and continuing until November 15; summary report due by February 1

Tools: [Verification at a Glance](#)
[ODE Meal Access and Reimbursement webpage](#)
[Eligibility Tool Kit](#)

School Nutrition Program Requirements

Wellness Policy

LEAs participating in NSLP must establish and implement, for all schools under its jurisdiction, a local school wellness policy that meet minimum standards designed to promote sound nutrition, student health, reduce childhood obesity, and provide transparency to the public on the school nutrition environment.

Due: Ongoing, along with a full assessment due triennially

Tools: [Wellness Policy at a Glance](#)
[ODE Wellness Policy webpage](#)
[School Wellness Strategies for Success](#) training
[7 CFR 210.31](#)

Water Availability

The regulations found in [7 CFR 210.10\(a\)\(1\)\(i\)](#) state that schools must make plain potable water available and accessible without restriction to children at no charge in the place(s) where lunches are served during the meal service.

The regulations found at [7 CFR 220.8\(a\)\(1\)](#) specify that when breakfast is served in the cafeteria, schools must make plain potable water available and accessible without restriction to children at no charge.

Tools: [ODE Water webpage](#)

School Nutrition Program Requirements

School Nutrition Program Regulations – Oregon Specific

[Chapter 326.051](#) Board function and rules

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS)

[Chapter 327](#)

- 327.527 Summer breakfast and lunch reimbursement, grants, and contracts; rules
- 327.532 School lunch program
- 327.535 School breakfast program; reimbursement; rules
- 327.537 Provision of reimbursable meals; prohibitions and requirements when student owes money.
 - [Oregon HB 3454 “Lunch Shaming Ban” Q and A](#)
- 327.540 After-school meal and snack program; grants; rules
- 327.545 Oregon Expanded Income Guidelines

[Chapter 336](#)

- ORS 336.423 Oregon Smart Snacks
- ORS 336.445 Use of polystyrene foam in meal service; rules

Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR)

[Chapter 581 Division 51](#)

- 581-051-0100 School Nutrition Programs
- 581-051-0400 Breakfast Programs
- 581-051-0305 to 581-051-0310 Food Safety Inspections
- 581-051-0350 to 581-051-0365 Use of Polystyrene
 - [Polystyrene Foam Q & A](#)
 - [Districts Financial Hardship Application instructions](#)
 - [Polystyrene Use Financial Hardship Application](#)
- 581-051-0500 to 581-051-0590 Food Service Management Companies
- 581-051-0600 Breakfast After the Bell Requirement and Exemption Process
- 581-051-0605 Breakfast After the Bell Equipment Grant
- 581-051-0610 Community Eligibility Provision Incentive Reimbursement Program
- 581-051-0615 Expanded Income Eligibility Group Reimbursement Program

Federal Regulations

Specific Programs

- [7 CFR Part 210](#) – National School Lunch Program
- [7 CFR Part 220](#)- School Breakfast Program
- [7 CFR Part 245](#) - Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals and Free Milk in Schools
- [7 CFR Part 215](#) - Special Milk Program
- [7 CFR Part 250](#) - Commodity Food Distribution Program

Program-Wide

[2 CFR, Chapters II - All Sponsors](#)

The Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction created this document. The Oregon Department of Education modified the document to apply to Oregon.

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