

School Nutrition Program At-A-Glance

Topic: Seamless Summer Option

Overview

The Seamless Summer Option (SSO) combines features of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Traditionally, Seamless Summer Option is restricted to summer vacation periods and, for year-round schools, long school vacation periods for eligible school sites. The SSO offers school food authorities (SFAs) operating the NSLP or SBP a streamlined option for providing summer meals by continuing to follow several of the same operational requirements, such as the NSLP/SBP meal patterns and procedures for filing claims and determining student eligibility. Non-congregate feeding is a service option available for qualifying rural sites.

Site Types:

Open Site: An open site is a site that provides meals to all children 18 and younger in the area, even if the children are not enrolled in the district.

Restricted Open Site: An open site which might need to restrict or limit the meal site's attendance for reasons of space, security, safety, or control.

Closed Enrolled Site: Serves meals only to an identified group of children who are participating in a specific program or activity. These sites usually provide recreational, cultural, religious, or other types of organized activities.

Migrant Site: Primarily serves children of migrant families through age 18, as certified by a migrant coordinator.

Camps: May be residential or non-residential (day camp) and must offer regularly scheduled food service as part of an organized program for enrolled children. Individual eligibility must be established for participants. Only meals served to eligible children can be claimed for reimbursement.

Site Eligibility:

Open sites: In the attendance area of a school or in a geographic area defined by census data where 50% or more of the children qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, and open to the community.

Enrolled sites: 50 percent or more of enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, as determined by approved application, or operate in an eligible area.

Migrant sites: Certification by a migrant organization that the sites serve primarily children of migrant farm workers.

Camps: Offer a regularly scheduled food service as part of an organized program for enrolled children.

Academic Summer Schools: *An academic summer school, with the sole purpose of credit recovery or grade advancement, is not eligible to participate in the Seamless Summer Option as a closed enrolled site. If the site is not open, participation in the traditional National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program is an option.*

Key Seamless Summer Option Requirements:

- ✓ SFA's must have documentation showing eligibility for each SSO site.
- ✓ SFA's may claim up to two meals, or one meal and one snack, per child, per day, in any combination except lunch and supper.
- ✓ SFA's must count the number of meals at the point of service (POS) where it can be accurately determined that a reimbursable meal has been served.
- ✓ SFA's must ensure all SSO meals meet the NSLP, SBP, or NSLP Afterschool Snack Service meal pattern requirements.
- ✓ SFA's operating open SSO sites serving children in different grade groups may request a Grade Group Meal Pattern Exception.
- ✓ SFA's must ensure that requests for meal modifications due to a documented disability are accommodated.
- ✓ Menus and production records must be completed and kept on file, demonstrating that all meal components and quantities for each age/grade group have been met.
- ✓ All crediting documentation (Child Nutrition Labels, Product Formulation Statements, Nutrition Facts labels) and Standardized Recipes must be retained .
- ✓ Offer Versus Serve (OVS) is optional at breakfast and lunch for all students under SSO.
- ✓ SFAs must advertise the availability of free meals to the community (i.e., posting information to the school's website, posting flyers in the community).
- ✓ SFAs must ensure that each site's Food Safety Plan and Standard Operating Procedures reflect SSO operations.
- ✓ Each year, SFA's are required to conduct an onsite review of each SSO site at least once during the SSO operation.

Helpful Resources:

- ✓ [ODE CNP Seamless Summer Option Webpage](#)
- ✓ [Seamless Summer Option Meal Counting Form](#)
- ✓ [Onsite Monitoring Form](#)
- ✓ [Summer Meals Comparison Chart](#)

Regulatory Reference:

- ✓ [Memo SP 08-2025 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas: Questions and Answers](#)
- ✓ [Memo SP-09 2017 Questions and Answers for the National School Lunch Program's Seamless Summer Option](#)
- ✓ [7 CFR 210 National School Lunch Program](#)

Acronym Reference and Definitions

SSO	Seamless Summer Option
SFA	School Food Authority
NSLP	National School Lunch Program
SBP	School Breakfast Program

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.