

Program Comparison: National School Lunch Program (NSLP)/School Breakfast Program (SBP); Summer Food Service Program (SFSP); Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

The purpose of this comparison chart is to assist School Food Authorities (SFAs) and organizations when choosing between the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)/School Breakfast Program (SBP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO).

Topic	SFSP	NSLP/SBP	SSO
Eligible Sponsors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFAs, Local government agencies, Private non-profit organizations, Universities or Colleges, Community & faith-based organizations that successfully complete the application process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFAs currently administering the NSLP and/or SBP
Times of Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May – September for traditional school calendar areas. October-June during unanticipated school closures (i.e. emergencies). During student vacations of 15 days or more for schools on a continuous year calendar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When school is in session as established by the school district, including summer school (when students are receiving educational services for grade advancement or recovery) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May – September for traditional school calendar areas October-June during unanticipated school closures (i.e. emergencies) During student vacations of 10 days or more for schools on a continuous year calendar
Meal Service Locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools, camps, churches, community centers, housing projects, libraries, migrant centers, parks, playgrounds, pools and other public sites where children gather. Community or residential locations in rural areas where non-congregate meal distribution may occur. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools, Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as SFSP. SSO sites must be operated by SFAs currently administering NSLP and/or SBP.

Topic	SFSP	NSLP/SBP	SSO
Meal Cost to Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All meals are at no cost to the participant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meal cost is based on student's free, reduced-price and paid eligibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All meals are at no cost to the participant
Establishing Site Eligibility* *As applicable, alternative forms of data may be used to establish site eligibility, including Special provision data under NSLP/SBP and Census data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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% or more of enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, determined by approved application, or using area eligibility. Migrant sites: Certification by a migrant organization that the sites serve children of migrant farm workers. Tribal sites: Certification by a Tribal authority that the site is on a Tribal reservation or trust land Camps: Offer a regularly scheduled food service as part of an organized program for enrolled children. Conditional Non-Congregate: In a rural area that does not meet area eligibility requirements that may only claim meals for children eligible for free or reduced-price meals, determined by approved income applications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools: Public and private non-profit schools of high school grade and under that are part of the State's education system. RCCIs: Public and licensed, non-profit, private. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as SFSP

Topic	SFSP	NSLP/SBP	SSO
Summer School When students are receiving educational services for grade advancement or recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only available when operating as an open site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required program for Summer School only (not in conjunction with any other enrichment or educational programming) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only available when operating as an open site
Type of Meals Available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breakfast Lunch Snack (AM or PM) Supper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breakfast Lunch Afterschool Snack 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as SFSP
Maximum Number of Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 2 meals/ snacks at most sites Up to 3 meals/ snacks for migrant sites and camps <p>*Lunch and Supper cannot be reimbursed for the same day by the same site, except at residential camp and migrant sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 meals and one snack 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as SFSP
Meal Service Time Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If serving Breakfast, it must be served before Lunch. At least one hour, minimum, between the end of one meal and the beginning of the next. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breakfast must be served in the morning hours. Lunch must be served between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as SFSP
Meal Service Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group setting (congregate) Non-congregate allowed in rural areas that meet requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group setting (congregate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as SFSP

Topic	SFSP	NSLP/SBP	SSO
USDA Foods Entitlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5 cents per meal May also receive bonus commodities, as available in accordance with statute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rate per lunch for year. May also receive bonus commodities, as available in accordance with statute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as NSLP
Reimbursement Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per meal based on meal preparation method and Rural or Urban site designation. For current rates, see the Summer Food Service Program webpage in the <i>Participant Eligibility and Reimbursement</i> dropdown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per meal based on student eligibility for paid, free and reduced-price meals Lunch receives performance cash assistance per meal. For current rates, see the SNP Meal Access and Reimbursement webpage in the <i>Reimbursement Rates</i> dropdown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per meal at NSLP/SBP Free rate Lunch and Supper receive performance cash assistance per meal For current rates, see the SNP Meal Access and Reimbursement webpage in the <i>Reimbursement Rates</i> dropdown
Reimbursement Method Sponsors receive reimbursement (meals times rate) without regard to their actual or budgeted costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total meals, by type, times the SFSP reimbursement rate Camps and Conditional Non-Congregate sites are reimbursed only for meals served to eligible children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total meals by type times the free, reduced-price or paid rate for each meal type. Severe Need Breakfast and Lunch supplements for qualifying schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total meals, by type, times NSLP/SBP Free rate
State Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$0.05 per breakfast and lunch meal reimbursed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$0.30 per reduced-price breakfast claimed \$0.40 per reduced-price lunch claimed Applicable Community Eligibility Provision Incentive (CEPI) Applicable Expanded Income Guidelines (EIG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$0.05 per breakfast and lunch meal reimbursed

Topic	SFSP	NSLP/SBP	SSO
Required Monitoring by SFA/ Sponsors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-operational visit before a new or problem site operates the summer program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing congregate sites that move to non-congregate meal service for the first time, are required to have a pre-operational visit before starting operations. Site visit during the first two weeks of operations, but may be waived sponsors who are in good standing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site visit and site review may be completed at the same time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both forms must be completed if this is done. Site review during first four weeks of operation, followed by additional monitoring as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies to sponsors with more than one approved serving site. Required for 100% of Lunch Required for 50% of Breakfast Review of meal counting, claiming and meal pattern, and other observable areas for each school by February 1 each year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of meal counting, claiming and meal pattern, and other observable areas at least once during each site's operation
Required Monitoring by State Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review every three years; more frequently based on program size and prior problems identified by the state agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review once in a four-year cycle; more frequently based on prior problems identified by the state agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review at least one SSO site in operation at all SFAs scheduled for an administrative review

Topic	SFSP	NSLP/SBP	SSO
Meal Pattern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet meal pattern for SFSP in 7 CFR 225.16(d) standards • SFAs may opt to use the NSLP/SBP meal pattern • Sponsors may opt to use the CACFP meal pattern for children 5 years old and under. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet requirements for NSLP in 7 CFR 210.10 or SBP in 7 CFR 220.8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as NSLP/SBP • Open sites may serve one meal pattern to all age/grade groups with SA approval
Offer versus Serve (OVS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional for SFA sponsors in good standing; Non-SFA sponsors require a waiver <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sponsors opting to use the NSLP/SBP meal pattern must follow NSLP OVS requirements. ○ Sponsors opting to use the SFSP meal pattern must follow the SFSP OVS requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional for all grade levels for breakfast and required at high school level for lunch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional
Eligible Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any person 18 years or younger • Persons 19 years or older with a physical or mental disability as defined by the state AND who participates during the school year in a public or private non-profit school program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students enrolled in a school, as determined by the State Agency, of high school grade and under; include persons enrolled in a school program for the mentally or physically disabled; and persons under 21 enrolled in an RCCI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as SFSP, NSLP and SBP

