

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.

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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
<p>Establishing Site Eligibility*</p> <p>*As applicable, alternative forms of data may be used to establish site eligibility, including Special provision data under NSLP/SBP and Census data.</p>	<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 percent 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. 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

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<p>Summer School</p> <p>When students are receiving educational services for grade advancement or recovery</p>	<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
<p>Type of Meals Available</p>	<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
<p>Maximum Number of Meals</p>	<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
<p>Meal Service Time Requirements</p>	<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
<p>Meal Service Setting</p>	<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

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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. See current year reimbursement rates. 	<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. See current year reimbursement rates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per meal at NSLP/SBP Free rate Lunch and Supper receive performance cash assistance per meal See current year reimbursement rates.
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

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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

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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 and Non-SFA sponsors in good standing <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

