



# Comparison of Programs National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option



This is a comparison between the various Child Nutrition Program options for SY2021-22. The purpose of this comparison chart is to inform School Food Authorities (SFAs) about the differences between the National School Lunch & Breakfast Programs (NSLP/SBP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO).

Topic	NSLP/SBP	Seamless Summer Option
<b>Eligible Sponsors</b>	SFAs	SFAs currently administering the NSLP and/or SBP SFAs serving meals during SY21-22
<b>Times of Operation</b>	When school is in session as established by the school district, including summer school	<b>SY21-22:</b> allowed due to the COVID-19 public health emergency  May - September for traditional school calendar areas  October - April during unanticipated school closure (i.e. emergencies)  During student vacations of 10 days or more for schools on a continuous year calendar
<b>Meal Service Locations</b>	Schools, Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs)	Schools, Camps, Churches, Community Centers, Housing Projects, Libraries, Migrant Centers, Parks, Playgrounds, Pools, and other public sites where children gather

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<b>Meal Cost for Children</b>	Meal cost (free/reduced price/paid) for children is based on their income eligibility	<p>All meals are free</p> <p>Camps are only reimbursed for children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Camp sponsors may, and usually do, provide meals free of charge to all children.</p>
<b>Establishing Site Eligibility</b>	<p><u>Schools:</u> Public and private non-profit schools of high school grade and under that are part of State's education system</p> <p><u>RCCIs:</u> Public and licensed, non-profit, private</p>	<p><u>Open sites:</u> In the attendance area of a school or in a geographic area defined by census data where 50 percent or more of the children qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, and open to community</p> <p><u>Enrolled sites:</u> 50 percent or more of enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, determined by approved application, or operate in an eligible area</p> <p><u>Migrant sites:</u> Certification by a migrant organization that the sites serve children of migrant farm workers</p> <p><u>Camps:</u> Offer a regularly scheduled food service as part of an organized program for enrolled children</p> <p>*As applicable, alternative forms of data may be used to establish site eligibility, including Special provision data (including Community Eligibility) under NSLP/SBP, and Census data</p>

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<b>Type of Meals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakfast</li> <li>• Lunch</li> <li>• Afterschool Snacks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakfast</li> <li>• Lunch</li> <li>• Snack (AM or PM)</li> <li>• Supper</li> </ul> <p>Lunch &amp; supper cannot be reimbursed for the same day by the same site, except for camp and migrant sites.</p>																
<b>Maximum Number of Meals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakfast</li> <li>• Lunch</li> <li>• Afterschool Snack</li> </ul>	<p>2 meals for most sites</p> <p>3 meals for migrant sites and camps</p>																
<b>Commodities</b>	<p>24.75 cents per meal (2014-15 school year)</p> <p>May also receive bonus commodities, as available, in accordance w/ statute</p>	<p>Same as NSLP</p>																
<b>Reimbursement Rates</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Type of</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Breakfast**</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Lunch**</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Snack meal</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Paid</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$0.35</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$0.37</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$0.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">R/P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$3.26</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$3.28</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$0.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Free</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$3.66</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$3.53</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$0.07</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>School Year 2021-2022***</p> <p>*Includes severe need payment  **Includes additional 6 cents performance-based reimbursement  ***For the contiguous States only; rates for Alaska &amp; Hawaii are higher</p>	Type of	Breakfast**	Lunch**	Snack meal	Paid	\$0.35	\$0.37	\$0.07	R/P	\$3.26	\$3.28	\$0.07	Free	\$3.66	\$3.53	\$0.07	<p>All eligible meals provided under SSO reimbursed at NSLP/SBP applicable free rates for the school year beginning July 1 of the prior calendar year.</p> <p>All eligible meals served in SY21-22 will be reimbursed at the SFSP reimbursement rates.</p>
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<b>Reimbursement Method</b>	<p>Total meals by type times the free, reduced, or paid rate for each type of meal</p> <p>Extra \$.02 per lunch if 60 percent or more of lunches in second preceding year were free or reduced-price</p> <p>Additional payments for free or reduced-price breakfasts in severe need schools</p>	<p><b>SY21-22:</b> all enrolled students receive meals at no cost and all meals reimbursed at the SFSP rate.</p> <p>If area eligible, all meals reimbursed at NSLP/SBP <i>free rate</i>.</p> <p><i>Extra reimbursements available under NSLP/SBP provided under SSO, as applicable.</i></p> <p><i>If applications required (camps or closed enrolled in non-eligible area), free and reduced-price meals reimbursed at free NSLP/SBP rate; no reimbursement for paid meals at these sites.</i></p>
<b>Monitoring Required of SFA/Sponsors</b>	Onsite review of lunch counting and claiming system for each school by Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup> each year.	Review of meal counting, claiming and meal pattern compliance at least once during each site's operation.
<b>Monitoring Required of State</b>	Administrative reviews every 3 years	Administrative reviews consistent with NSLP/SBP requirements. Must include one seamless site in an administrative review of a School Food Authority participating in the SSO.

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<b>Meal Pattern</b>	Must meet requirement for NSLP in 7 CFR 210.10; or SBP in 7 CFR 220.8.	Same as NSLP/SBP*  *Additional flexibilities granted in specific circumstances, including safe provision of meals in light of COVID-19 public health emergency: Refer to <a href="#">Child Nutrition Response #90</a> , and policy memo SP-39-2014 "Questions and Answers for the National School Lunch Program's Seamless Summer Option".
<b>Eligible Participants</b>	Students enrolled in a school of high school grade and under determined by the SA; including persons enrolled in a school program for the mentally or physically disabled; and persons under 21 enrolled in an RCCI	<b>SY21-22:</b> all enrolled students are eligible.  Same as NSLP/SBP
<b>Public Notification</b>	SFA must send public media notice regarding program and letter or notice with an application to parents for all children in attendance at the school at the beginning of each school year	<b>SY 21-22:</b> SFA must do public notification, according to 7 CFR 245.5.  SFA must state in application how each site (excluding closed enrolled sites) will promote the availability of meals to children in the community.