

## CALLING ALL SCHOOLS . . .

### **Seamless Summer Option: An Opportunity for School Districts**

Are there hungry kids in your district when school is out? Now it is even easier to feed those kids! You can apply to operate the Seamless Summer Option in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program.

#### **What Is It?**

The Seamless Summer Option combines features of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). This option reduces paperwork and administrative burden, making it easier for schools to feed children from low-income areas during the traditional summer vacation periods, for year-round schools, and long school vacation periods (generally exceeding two to three weeks).

#### **Why Should Schools Do This?**

- Your community needs it—kids still need good food, even when school is out.
- It is easy—continue the same meal service rules and claiming procedures used during the regular school year.
- There is reduced paperwork and monitoring rules, compared to running different Child Nutrition Programs at the same time.
- Although the traditional SFSP is still available to schools, the Seamless Summer Option offers a streamlined approach to feeding hungry children in your community.

#### **How Does It Work?**

School districts participating in NSLP or SBP are eligible to apply for the Seamless Summer Option. Once approved by Illinois State Board of Education, school districts serve meals free of charge to children 18 years and under from low-income areas.

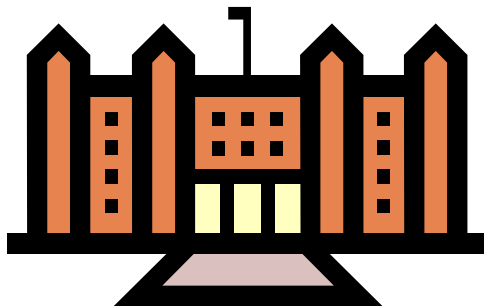
The same NSLP and SBP rules apply for this meal service. Meals served are reimbursed at NSLP and/or SBP *free* rates. Allowable meals may include breakfast, a.m. snack, lunch, p.m. snack, and supper. Up to two types of meals, except lunch and supper, per day can be reimbursed (three for migrant sites and camps).

The various types of sites allowed to participate in the Seamless Summer Option include:

- **Open sites**—all children eat free in communities where at least 50 percent of the children are eligible for free/reduced-price school meals.
- **Restricted open sites**—sites that meet the open site criteria, explained above, but are restricted for safety, control, or security reasons.
- **Closed enrolled sites**—may be in any community for an enrolled group of low-income children and meets the 50 percent criteria explained above. This **excludes** academic summer schools.
- **Migrant sites**—serving children of migrant families.
- **Camps**—residential or non-residential camps.

For additional information, contact Debbie Collins at 217/782-2491 or 800/545-7892 or visit our website at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/summer.htm>. Information can also be found on the USDA website at <http://www.summerfood.usda.gov>.

**You may not operate the Seamless Summer Option at schools only open for students attending an academic summer school unless you open your doors to the community. (In this situation, you must operate the traditional NSLP/SBP.)**



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