

Afterschool Care Snack Program

Serving reimbursable snacks as part of afterschool care programs



What is the Afterschool Care Snack Program?

The Afterschool Care Snack Program serves nutritious, reimbursable snacks to children during afterschool care programs.

- The hours after school are critical times when children and youth are most at-risk of engaging in delinquent behavior.
- Afterschool snacks fill the gap between the lunch they receive at school and supper.

What are the eligibility requirements?

- Afterschool care programs must be operated by an SFA that participates in the NSLP. The SFA must retain financial, administrative, and managerial responsibility of the Afterschool Care Snack Program.
- Afterschool programming must provide regularly scheduled activities in an organized, structured, and supervised environment with the purpose of caring for children. Educational or enrichment activities must be included.
- Programs may only operate after the school day has ended or through “expanded learning time” as defined by USDA.

How are sponsors reimbursed for snacks?

- a. Area-Eligible Sites: Served by a school in which at least 50% of the enrolled children are eligible for free and reduced-price meals
 - All snacks are claimed at the free rate, regardless of individual student eligibility
- b. Non-Area Eligible Sites: Served by a school that is not area-eligible (i.e., less than 50% of the enrolled children are eligible for free and reduced-price meals)
 - Snacks are claimed based on each individual child’s eligibility for free, reduced-price, or paid meal benefits

What are the nutrition requirements?

Snacks must meet the nutrition requirements to be reimbursed. Afterschool snacks must contain at least **two different components** of the following: grains, milk, fruits, vegetables, and meat/meat alternates. Two items from the same component cannot be served. Only one of the two components may be a beverage.

Afterschool Care Snack Program Meal Pattern for K-12	
Meal Components	Minimum Quantities ¹
Milk ²	8 fluid oz
Meat/Meat Alternative ³	1 oz equivalent
Vegetables ⁴	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup
Fruits ⁴	$\frac{3}{4}$ cup
Grains ⁵	1 oz equivalent

¹ May need to serve larger portions to children ages 13 to 18 to meet nutritional needs.

² Milk must be only fat-free/skim or low fat, and may be flavored or unflavored. Effective July 1, 2025, flavored milk may have no more than 10 grams of added sugars per 8 fluid ounces.

³ Alternative protein products must meet the requirements in Appendix A of 7 CFR Part 226. Effective July 1, 2025, yogurt must contain no more than 12 grams of added sugar per 6 ounces.

⁴ Juice must be pasteurized, full-strength 100% juice. No more than half of the weekly fruit or vegetable offering may be in the form of juice.

⁵ At least 80% of grains offered weekly must be whole grain-rich, and any remaining grain items offered must be enriched. Grain-based desserts may not be used to meet grains requirements. Effective July 1, 2025, breakfast cereal must have no more than 6 grams of added sugar per dry ounce.

What are the responsibilities of the sponsor?

The SFA must review each Afterschool Care Snack Program two times per year and complete the first review during the first four weeks the program is in operation each school year.

At a minimum, SFAs must maintain the following records for three prior years plus the current year, or longer if a review remains open:

- If all snacks are claimed free, documentation that the site is located in an area served by a school in which at least 50% of the enrolled students are certified eligible for free or reduced-price meals
- For all other sites, documentation (household applications, Direct Certification, or categorical eligibility) of free and reduced-price eligibility for all children served free or reduced-price snacks that are claimed
- Meal counts for area eligible sites; AND/OR by category for non-area eligible sites
- Documentation of individual child's attendance on a daily basis
- Production records