

School Nutrition Programs

Overview of Program Options

The School Nutrition Programs (SNP) offer a variety of options for meal and/or milk services that School Food Authorities (SFAs) may be eligible to participate in. Every school is different and will need to look at a variety of factors when determining which programs work for their school. The SNP is intended to provide a healthy well-balanced meal and/or milk for all enrolled students. Please see a short description of each program that is available to eligible schools and a chart summarizing notable requirements.

Program	Description
National School Lunch Program (NSLP) *may concurrently participate in IL Free Lunch	Federal school nutrition program that provides healthy balanced lunches to all students enrolled on school days between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. SFA may receive federal reimbursement for lunches served to students that meet program requirements based on eligibility category (free, reduced, paid).
National School Breakfast Program (SBP) *may concurrently participate in IL Free Breakfast	Federal school nutrition program that provides a healthy balanced breakfast to all students enrolled on school days at/near the beginning of the school day. SFA may receive federal reimbursement for breakfasts served to students that meet program requirements based on eligibility category.
NSLP and SBP – Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)	Federal school nutrition program that provides healthy balanced breakfasts and lunches to all enrolled students at no cost. School must meet CEP requirements to participate and must serve both SBP and NSLP. SFA may receive federal and state reimbursement for breakfasts and lunches that meet program requirements based on a calculated CEP percentage.
After School Snack Program (Snack)	Federal school nutrition program that provides a healthy balanced snack after the end of the school day for an enrichment program/activity. SFA may receive federal reimbursement for snacks that meet program requirements.
Special Milk Program (SMP) – Free	Federal school nutrition program that provides milk to students enrolled during the school day. Students eligible for free milk receive free milk, and the SFA may receive federal reimbursement for those free milks served to eligible students and to paid eligible students.
Special Milk Program (SMP) – Paid	Federal school nutrition program that provides milk to students enrolled during the school day. All enrolled students receive a discounted rate on purchasing milk. The SFA may receive federal reimbursement for all milks served to students.
Seamless Summer Option (SSO)	Federal school nutrition program that provides healthy balanced meals during the summer months and/or during extended school breaks. All meals are available to participants at no cost. SFA may receive federal reimbursement for SSO meals that meet program requirements. *eligibility requirements may apply.
IL Free Breakfast	School nutrition program that provides healthy balanced breakfasts on school days to students eligible for free meals. SFA may receive state reimbursement for free breakfasts that meet program requirements (ex. must meet SBP meal pattern) that are served to eligible students.
IL Free Lunch	School nutrition program that provides healthy balanced lunches on school days to students eligible for free meals. SFA may receive state reimbursement for free lunches that meet program requirements (ex. must meet NSLP meal pattern) that are served to eligible students.

Each program described on the previous page has a variety of additional requirements for participation and/or eligibility. The table below provides a summary of some of those requirements. Please view the [School Nutrition Programs Administrative Handbook](#) for a detailed description of each programs requirements.

[Click here](#) for the most current reimbursement rates. Reimbursement rates change on July 1 annually.

Notable Applicable Requirements (not an inclusive list, see Administrative Handbook)

	NSLP	NSLP & SBP – CEP	SBP	Snack	SMP Free	SMP Paid	IL Free lunch	IL Free Bfst
Must determine which students are free, reduced, or paid each year	X		X	X ¹	X		X – free only	X – free only
All foods and beverages sold on campus must meet the Smart Snacks requirements	X	X	X	X				
Fundraiser requirements: Limits the number of days in which foods/beverages that don't meet Smart Snacks can be sold	X	X	X					
Requires Local Wellness Policy that meets federal requirements	X	X	X					
Meals must meet the federal meal pattern requirements and required milk types	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Staff must meet annual training requirements	X	X	X					
Hiring standards apply	X	X	X					
Accurate meal/milk counts required	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Must follow federal and state procurement/purchasing rules and regulations	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Must follow state procurement/purchasing rules and regulations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Is eligible for USDA Foods and/or DoD Fresh	X	X						

Please note per [105 ILCS 125/4 and 23 Illinois Administrative Code 305.10](#), **all public schools** must provide a free eligible student with a free meal regardless of the schools' participation in a federal and/or state meal program. Additionally, all public schools must adhere to [state procurement/purchasing](#) rules and regulations regardless of their participation in the School Nutrition Programs.

¹ The After School Snack Program may provide all snacks at no cost if the site meets the [Area Eligibility requirements](#).