

Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option Comparison Chart

The purpose of the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) is to encourage more School Food Authorities (SFAs) to provide meals in the summer and other times when school is not in session. The SSO combines features of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

A comparison between the SFSP and the SSO is listed below. Please use this information to determine which meal pattern best meets the needs of your summer season operation.

| Topic | Summer Food Service Program | Seamless Summer Option |
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| Sponsoring Organization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFAs • Public or private nonprofit schools • Units of local, municipal, county, tribal, or state government • Private nonprofit organizations • Public or private nonprofit camps • Public or private nonprofit universities or colleges | <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-April during unanticipated school closures (e.g., emergencies, strikes) • During student vacations for schools on a continuous year calendar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the SFSP. |
| Site Locations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camps, community buildings, libraries, apartment complexes, housing projects, parks, swimming pools, splash parks, churches, migrant centers, schools, and other public sites where children gather | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the SFSP. |
| Establishing Site Eligibility | May operate as: Open -- sites that serve all children 18 and under. To be eligible, the site must be located within an area where at least 50 percent or more of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same of the SFSP. |

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| | <p>the children are certified eligible for free or reduced-priced meals based on school or census data.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Closed enrolled -- sites that serve only an identified group of children, such as the students enrolled in a summer enrichment program. At least 50 percent or more of the children enrolled at the site must be approved for free or reduced-price meals or the site is located in an area eligible region based on school or census data.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Camp (residential or non-residential day camp) – sites that offer regularly scheduled food service as part of an organized program for enrolled children. There is no required free or reduced-price percentage. Sites must have an income application on file for each camper or verified by the school.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Migrant -- sites that are certified by a migrant organization that the site(s) serves children of migrant farm workers.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Conditional and conditional rural non-congregate – sites that conduct a rural non-congregate meal service for eligible children in an area that does not meet the definition of the “area in which poor economic conditions exist.”</p> | |
| Meal Reimbursement for Children | <p>Open and closed enrolled sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All meals are served to eligible children are reimbursed at the appropriate SFSP rate. | <p>Open and closed enrolled sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All meals are served to eligible children are reimbursed at the appropriate NSLP or SBP free rate. |

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| | <p>Camp and conditional rural non-congregate sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meals are reimbursed at the appropriate SFSP rates for children eligible for free or reduced-price meals. • No reimbursement is provided for meals served to children approved for paid status meals. Camps may charge students for these meals or cover them with other non-program funds. | <p>Camp and conditional rural non-congregate sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meals are reimbursed at the appropriate NSLP/SBP free rates for children eligible for free or reduced-price meals. • No reimbursement is provided for meals served to children approved for paid status meals. Camps may charge students for these meals or cover them with other non-program funds. |
| Maximum Number of Meals Served | <p>Open, closed enrolled, and conditional rural non-congregate sites (per day, per child):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast and lunch • Breakfast and supper • Breakfast and snack • Lunch and snack • Supper and snack • Two snacks • Lunch and supper cannot be reimbursed for the same day for the same site <p>Camp and migrant sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast, lunch, and supper • Breakfast, lunch, and snack • Breakfast, supper, and snack • Lunch, supper, and snack | Same as SFSP. |
| Meal Pattern | <p>Meal patterns must meet 7 CFR Part 225.16(d) standards.</p> <p>However, SFAs may substitute NSLP/SBP meal patterns.</p> | SFAs must follow NSLP/SBP standards. |
| Offer Versus Serve | Offer Versus Serve is allowed for SFA sponsors. | Same as SFSP. |
| USDA Foods | <p>Available to program sponsors that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare their own meals. | <p>Available to SFAs that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare their own meals. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase meals from a SFA that participates in the NSLP. • Are SFAs that procure their meals from the same Food Service Management Company (FSMC) that provides the NSLP/SBP meals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase meals from a SFA that participates in NSLP. • Procure their meals from the same FSMC that provides their NSLP/SBP meals. |
| Food Production Records | Food production records are not required but the sponsor must maintain documentation of the meals served. This recordkeeping could be via production records or a detailed menu plan with identified portion sizes. | Food production records are required. |
| Meal Service Times | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Except for <u>rural</u> non-congregate meal service, breakfast meals must be served at or close to the beginning of a child's day. Three component meals served after a lunch or supper meal service are not eligible for reimbursement as a breakfast. • Meal services at all sites except residential camps and <u>rural</u> non-congregate meal service must start at least one hour after the end of the previous meal or snack. | <p>Breakfast and lunch must follow the designated times in the SBP and NSLP regulations. According to 7 CFR 220.2(b), breakfast must be served to a child in the morning hours. Lunch must be offered between 10a.m. and 2p.m., as specified in 7 CFR 210.10(f).</p> <p>Snacks may be served in the morning or afternoon and must be evenly and adequately spaced between other meal service times to minimize food waste and ensure good nutrition practices.</p> |
| Second Meals | Reimbursed up to 2 percent of the first meals served. | Not reimbursable. |
| Application Deadlines | May 1 for new sponsors, June 2 for returning sponsors. | Prior to program operation or June 15, whichever occurs first. |
| Training Requirements | <p>Sponsors are required to participate in annual ISBE SFSP sponsor training.</p> <p>Sponsors are required to provide training to administrative and operational staff.</p> | Annual SSO training available on website. |
| Notification to the Community/Outreach | ISBE sends a statewide program announcement, so a sponsor is not required to send a public notice to its local media outlet. | <p>Public media notice may be done but is not required.</p> <p>The SFA must state in application how each site (excluding closed enrolled site) will advertise</p> |

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| | | availability of meals to the neighborhood community. |
| Health Department Notification | Sponsors must send a notification letter to the health department listing each site. | Not required. |
| Monitoring Requirements of SFA or Sponsor | <p>SFSP internal site monitoring:</p> <p>Pre-operational visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New sites and sites with operational problems. <p>Sponsor site visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New sites and sites with operational problems. Within first two weeks of operation. <p>Site review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All sites. Within first four weeks of operation. Can be in conjunction with sponsor site visit. Sites switching from congregate to rural non-congregate are considered “new” sites, including those switching to a hybrid service. | <p>SFAs are required to review each SSO site at least once during its operation.</p> <p>The SFA must review the site’s compliance with meal counting, claiming, menu planning, and food safety requirements.</p> |
| Monitoring Requirements of State Agency | ISBE must conduct an administrative review of sponsors at least once every three years. | ISBE must conduct an administrative review consistent with NSLP/SBP requirements. ISBE must include the review of one SSO site as part of the school year administrative review. |
| Eligible Participants | Persons 18 years of age or younger and persons 19 years of age or older (up to age 21; the day before the student’s 22 nd birthday) with a physical or mental disability, as defined by ISBE. | Same as SFSP. |
| Management Plan | <p>Management plans must be submitted annually. A full management plan must be submitted at least every three years for all sponsors.</p> <p>This requirement may be waived for experienced SFA sponsors.</p> | Same as NSLP – none. |
| Meal Service Options | Congregate meal service – a food service at which meals that are provided to children are consumed on site in a supervised setting. | Same as SFSP. |

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| | <p>Rural non-congregate meal service – a food service at which meals are provided for children to consume off-site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited to rural area with no congregate meal service. • Grab-and-go. • Curbside service. • Take-home backpacks. • Home delivery. | |
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